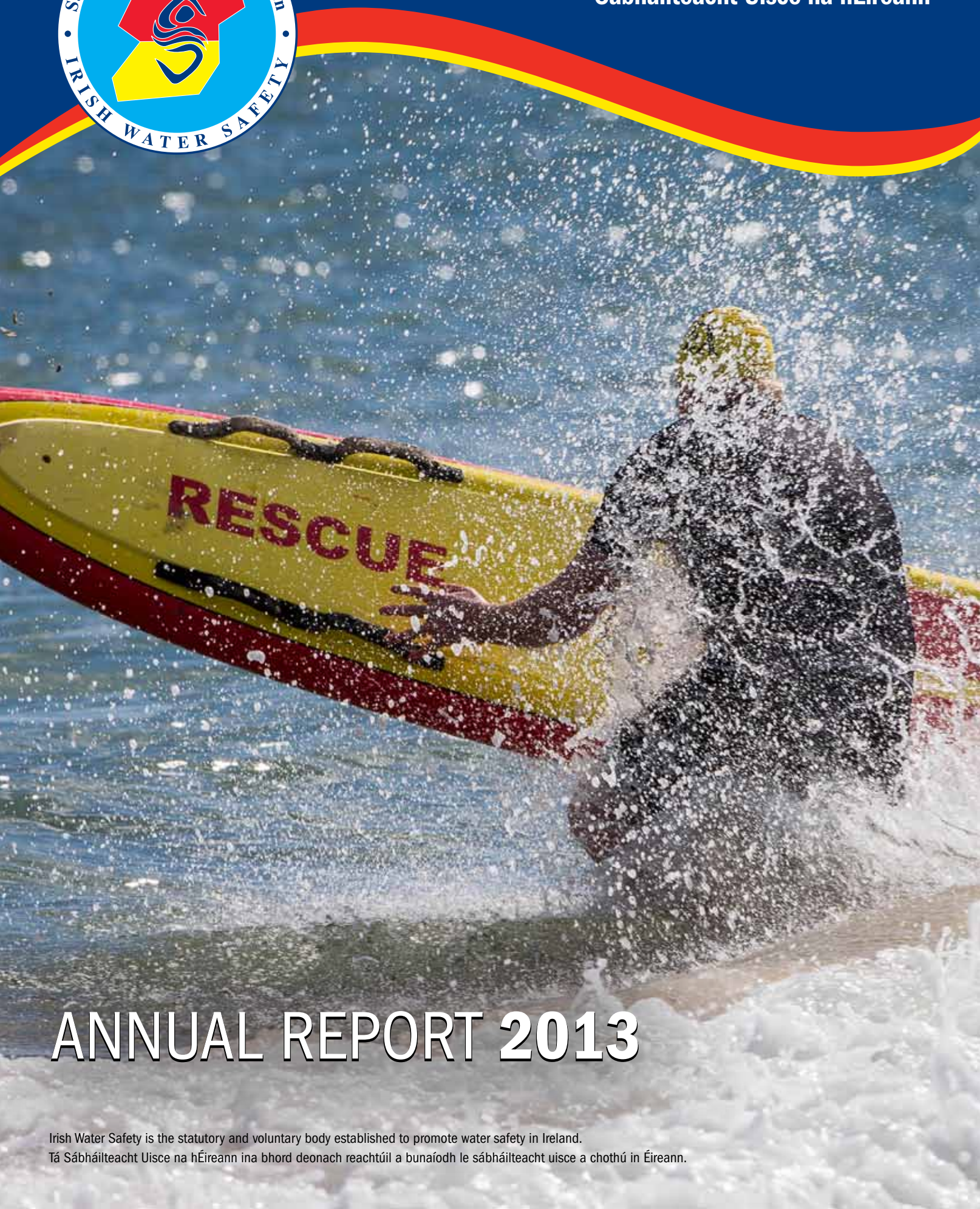




Irish Water Safety

Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann



ANNUAL REPORT 2013

Irish Water Safety is the statutory and voluntary body established to promote water safety in Ireland.

Tá Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann ina bhord deonach reachtúil a bunaíodh le sábháilteacht uisce a chothú in Éireann.



Annual Report 2013

The Long Walk, Galway, Ireland
Tel: 091 564400; LoCall: 1890420202; Fax: 091 564700
Email: info@iws.ie
Website: www.iws.ie



**Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland
(Patron of Irish Water Safety)**

Chairman's Statement



I wish to present this annual report on behalf of the Council of Irish Water Safety and more particularly on behalf of the two and a half thousand voluntary members who work continuously educating and training members of the public in Water Safety awareness.

Irish Water Safety is the statutory body with responsibility to promote water safety in Ireland. This report outlines the wide range of programmes and activities the Organisation undertakes to achieve that objective including the advancement of education, the provision of nationwide instruction in water safety, rescue, swimming, resuscitation and recovery, the promotion of the efficiency and standardisation of the lifeguard service, both in our pools and open water, and the establishment of national standards for

lifeguards, lifesaving and water safety.

The success of these programmes and activities is due to the contributions of our volunteer members, who serve on Council, within Commissions, working groups and Water Safety Area Committees nationwide. These volunteers serve as instructors, examiners, tutors, organisers and fundraisers both at national and local level and continue to fundraise through our many activities and services that we provide on a voluntary basis in every county in the country. The details and the range of these activities are outlined in the body of the report.

Our activities are aligned with the targets set out in our Strategic Development Plan for the period 2012 – 2017. We have used this plan to set out our mission, vision, values, goals and objectives. The Plan lists the key goals that need to be addressed to raise awareness of water safety in Ireland under the responsibilities assigned to Irish Water Safety in our Statutory Instrument. Each goal has a list of tasks and objectives, ranked in order of priority, that need to be completed to achieve the Goal.

The council of Irish Water Safety has adopted this document under a planned work programme. The various talents of the council members have been targeted into key areas of responsibilities, to drive the plan forward with timed objectives and regular evaluation. The methodology of achieving those objectives has been identified and assigned to the various commissions and working groups that have been established by the council. The result of the work of these commissions is outlined in the body of this report.

One of our key developments was the Policy and Strategic Plan on Suicide Prevention. These numbers often exceed accidental drownings. Irish Water safety has identified key initiatives that will continue to support suicide prevention strategies.

Through our Primary Aquatics Water Safety (PAWS) programme we are reaching out to primary school children.

Our summer weeks programme also reaches this age group. During the hot summer of 2013, we were being asked to provide details of our education programme for young

people. During July and August alone, thousands of children were taught swimming and lifesaving skills throughout the country. The list of the 199 venues is in this report. We reach remote areas where children do not have access to pools. Irish Water Safety is the only body that has a dedicated programme of teaching swimming and lifesaving in an open water environment.

Our Lifesaving Sport clubs are growing in strength around the country. Lifesaving Sport reaches thousands of young people, at nipper, junior and senior level. Lifesaving Sport has been developed to improve the standard of lifesaving and rescue skills among our lifeguards. It also introduces children to lifesaving skills at a young age. Irish Water Safety Lifesaving Sport had a great year in 2013. The programme included 3 National Pool Competitions, 3 Surf Regional Nipper Competitions, the Surf National Nipper Competition, the Surf Junior Competition and a Senior and Masters Championships in addition to 4 training camps for the National Squad and associated trial days. These events catered for almost 1,800 competitors.

Our Junior team competed in the European Championships in Italy taking 2 Gold and 2 Silver and 6th place overall – a wonderful achievement. Irish Senior team competed in the European Championships in the Netherlands bringing home 6 medals. Congratulations to all the competitors, but a big thanks to all the coaches for their long hours of voluntary training.

The Open Water Awareness course for people working on, near or in water which was launched last year saw approximately 400 people who work in aquatic environments get water safety training for the first time.

Another new initiative in 2013 was our new agreement with the Irish Surfing Association (ISA). Under this agreement, IWS and ISA have established safety standards for all ISA registered Surf Schools offering training to the public. The Surf Schools are inspected independently by IWS qualified inspectors. All 45 schools were inspected last year.

The summer of 2013 brought to Ireland the hottest summer in many years. Two weeks alone in July brought the tragedy of 13 drownings. We were struggling to get our message to the public regarding responsible behaviour in and on water. We appealed to the media and to, once again, our volunteers. I wish to acknowledge the help given in communicating to the public from both of these sources during that time. We have very limited funding for National campaigns. I want to thank the Water Safety committees who responded to my appeal to help role a limited radio campaign during the month of August. While the hot weather continued for another 4 weeks the drownings virtually stopped. My personal opinion is that the public did listen...and learned!

During those two months, IWS assessed lifeguards rescued 894 people from lifeguarded waterways. Almost 800 children were reunited with their parents.

We hope that some of these programmes, activities and initiatives have resulted in the good news figures released by the CSO's office. In 2013, 91 people lost their lives through drowning. This is the lowest in 77 years. The good news also is the numbers are down in all categories. Our analysis of these figures is contained within the report and we use it to constantly review our "at risk" groups.

The challenge for IWS is to continue to reach these groups through various media but principally through the "backbone" of our organisation....our volunteers! I wish to thank

each and every one of them who has contributed by organising, teaching, training and for serving on committees, commissions and working groups.

The Council wishes to acknowledge the financial support that we received from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government during 2013. We wish to acknowledge that in these difficult times they increased our funding to drive specific initiatives in 2014.

We acknowledge the contributions from our Local Authorities throughout Ireland and we continue to fundraise through our many activities and services that we provide on a voluntary basis. The expenditure saved through corporate sponsorship and benefit-in-kind has made a great positive contribution towards saving life through the promotion of water safety awareness and we are grateful for their contributions over the last twelve months. For example, the SEIKO “Just in Time” Rescue Award continues to recognise those who have saved others from difficulty in water.


We worked in co-operation with a number of agencies including the Irish Coast Guard, An Garda Síochána, the Marine Safety Directorate, Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Community Rescue Boats Ireland, Irish Sailing Association, Irish Surfing Association, Commissioners of Irish Lights, the Defence Forces, ILAM, Royal Lifesaving Society, Swim Ireland, Waterways Ireland, the Inland Waterways Association of Ireland, Coaching Ireland and An Taisce and with many other aquatic and sporting bodies. The support of these groups is of great value to us.

2013 saw the passing of some of our long standing instructors and examiners. I extend to their families our sincere and deepest sympathy on the passing of these colleagues and friends.

I thank the Chief Executive Officer and his staff for their dedication and loyalty throughout the year.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to my colleagues on the Council for their exceptional commitment and support in the management of our organisation.

Finally, I wish to take this opportunity to thank Mr Phil Hogan T.D. Minister for the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government and the Secretary General and her staff, who have been supportive of our efforts over the year to help us operate efficiently and deliver our services.



Breda Collins
Chairman
Irish Water Safety



Breda Collins
Chairman

Breda Collins joined Irish Water Safety in 1986 and is an active Instructor, Swimming Teacher, Examiner and Risk Assessor in Kilkenny. She is an International Surf Lifesaving Referee and an ILSE Risk Assessor Tutor. She served on the National Irish Water Safety Committee under The National Safety Council. She was elected to the Irish Water Safety Council when it was set up in 1999, and was subsequently elected to the Councils in 2003 and 2006. Breda has served as Chairperson of the Lifesaving, Swimming and Rescue Commissions, has been Director of many provincial and national courses and conferences and is currently the secretary of the ILSE Rescue Commission. She was appointed Chairman of Irish Water Safety in November 2011.

Martin O'Sullivan
Vice-Chairman

Martin has been involved with water safety since 1970, when he did his lifesaving tests with the Red Cross. Martin has served as Chairman of Cork Water Safety Area Committee at various times since 1973 and is the current Chairman of the Rescue Commission. Martin is the IWS representative on the Blue Flag jury. He is an Examiner, Swimming teacher Tutor, Senior Risk Assessment Tutor with ILS (E) and Chairman of the Technical Committee of IWS. He has been involved internationally since 1990, is a member of the Board of Directors of ILSE and is the Chairman of the Rescue Commission of ILS. He has developed the ILSE Risk Assessment Project on a European wide basis.



Michael Cuddihy

Michael "Buddy" Cuddihy has been a member of the board since 1987. During this time he has served on many national and international committees and is currently the Chairperson of the Lifeguard Commission and Vice Chairman of the Sports Commission of the European region (ILSE). He is also an executive member of the European College of Referees. He has a special interest in promoting sport within international lifesaving and has brought teams to South Africa, Australia, the USA and mainland Europe to compete successfully in international events. He is currently Treasurer of Waterford Water Safety Area Committee.

Brendan McGrath

Brendan is currently Chairman of the Swimming Commission of IWS and has also chaired a number of other Commissions tasked with other National developments. He began his involvement in life saving with the Red Cross and is an active instructor, examiner and risk assessor. He is also very involved in coaching within the sports of life saving and swimming with much international experience in both areas. He represents IWS on the board of the International Federation of Swimming Teacher Associations (IFSTA) and is a senior Risk Assessment Tutor with ILS(E). Brendan is self employed, working in the field of training and development.





Anne Ryan

A Wexford Native, Anne is an Instructor and Volunteer with Irish Water Safety since 1995. Among her many credentials within the volunteering ethos of Irish Water Safety, Anne is also the Local Area Secretary, a Swim Teacher and Examiner and the Wexford Water Safety Area Committee Secretary. In addition to these activities, Anne finds the time to organise Cahore Outdoor Water Safety Week, with which she has played an active part since 1996. In addition to working on FETAC updates, Anne works on all matters assigned to the Education Commission of which she is Vice Chair.

John Considine

John Considine was the Water Safety Development Officer in County Limerick for over twenty-five years, during which time he established the lifeguard service on the Shannon Estuary and was Secretary of the Irish Water Safety Development Officer's Association. He has served as Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-Chairman and Child Liaison Officer for the County Limerick Area Committee. He is a former member of the Council of the Irish Water Safety Association. He has served on the current Council as vice-Chair of the Lifeguard Commission, Chair of the Legal Commission and is currently Chairman of the Education Commission. He holds a LLB degree from University of Limerick and has also studied Planning and Environmental Law in Trinity College and at the Bar Council. His leisure interests include competitive sailing and powerboating.



Seamus O'Neill

Seamus started lifesaving at the age of 10 and became an Instructor in 1975. Seamus is an Examiner, Lifeguard provider, International Beach Referee, Tutor and currently Chairman of the IWS Sports Commission and has served on the Education and Swimming Commissions. He is currently Treasurer of Donegal Water Safety Area Committee.

Paul Murphy

From Dublin, Paul has been involved in Irish Water Safety for over 35 years. He is involved in IWS as an Instructor, Examiner, Pool & Beach Lifeguard Provider and Swim Teacher Tutor. He is currently the Vice-Chairman and Certificates Secretary of the Dublin Water Safety Area Committee. Paul has also served IWS on different Commissions over the last 14 years and at present is the Secretary of the IWS Lifeguard/Lifesaving Commission.



Tom Doyle

From Wexford, Chairman of Wexford WSAC and Water Safety Development Officer for Wexford County Council. Tom has been involved in Water Safety since the early seventies having worked in Wexford Swimming pool for over 30 years. He organizes the summer programme for the county each year. At present on the Lifeguard commission. He is also vice chair of the board of Wexford Credit Union and Chair of Chapter 9 which is a grouping of credit unions in south east of Ireland. His leisure interests include electrical design, scuba diving, and cycling.



Lola O'Sullivan

Lola is from Tramore, County Waterford. She is Chairperson and Sports Officer of Irish Water Safety's Waterford Water Safety Area Committee and is a Tramore Town Councillor and Waterford County Councillor. Lola has been involved with Water Safety for over 20 years. She is an active instructor and Pool Lifeguard Course Provider in Waterford and teaches both in the pool environment and the open sea. Lola is very involved in Surf Lifesaving in Waterford. She has competed in Surf Lifesaving both nationally and internationally. She currently holds the position as Sports Officer for Waterford. Lola also served as a crew member with the RNLI in Tramore and currently serves as a Councillor on Waterford County Council and Tramore

Town Council.

Christy McDonagh

Christy lives in Ballina and is a member of Grainne Uaile Sub Aqua Club in County Mayo. He is an active instructor and examiner in SCUBA diving. He is a member of the Clubs Underwater Search and Recovery Unit which is affiliated to the Irish Underwater Council.



Tim O'Sullivan – Official of Dept. of Environment, Community & Local Government. Assistant Principal Officer in the Community Division of the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, based in the Department's offices in Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo. Tim is the Department's representative on the Council of IWS since November 2011. Originally from Sneem, Co. Kerry and now living in Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo. Chairman of Ballinrobe Tidy Towns and a community director for Ballinrobe Community Playgroup.

Odran Reid – is an economist and a planner who has worked in the NGO sector for over 25 years. He is a part time lecturer on the Masters Programme in the School of Spatial Planning in DIT Bolton Street, and in the people College. Odran is the Corporate Strategy Manager for Northside Partnership and is currently the Chairperson of the ICTU Fingal Centre in Finglas, a Director and Company Secretary of Northside Homecare Board in Coolock and a Member of the QQI Appeals Panel. Odran was formerly a member of the Lord Mayor of Dublin's Anti Social Behaviour Commission and the Garda Síochána Complaints Board. He has been involved with the Aer Lingus Swimming club for over ten years having been Secretary and PRO for the club. He has been trained in child protection and as a team manager by Swim Ireland and works at numerous galas from time to time. Odran is a professional member of the Irish Planning Institute, the Institute of Economic Development and the Institute of Managers of Community and Voluntary Organisations.



Council Meetings 2013 Attendance Record

In addition to the Council meetings, members have also attended Commission meetings, conferences, exhibitions and other water safety events throughout the year on behalf of Council.

Record of Council

Meetings attended		1	2	3	4	5	6
2013		06-Feb	10-Apr	12-Jun	14-Aug	01-Oct	04-Dec
Breda	Collins	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
John	Considine	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Michael	Cuddihy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tom	Doyle	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Christy	McDonagh	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Brendan	McGrath	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Paul	Murphy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Seamus	O'Neill	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Lola	O'Sullivan	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Martin	O'Sullivan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tim	O'Sullivan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Odran	Reid	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y
Anne	Ryan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Water Safety Area Committees

The organisation has thirty Area Committees, arranged almost on a county basis plus the Defence Forces and the Garda Síochána Water Safety Area Committees. Much recognition must be afforded to these Water Safety Area Committees who devise a programme of events and courses to cover their areas for the year. In addition to delivering water safety promotional programmes and demonstrations at schools, colleges, businesses, exhibitions and community events, each Committee delivers an extensive programme of pool water safety sessions in the winter and beach, lake and river water safety sessions in the summer.

The official membership structure is of a voluntary nature with over two thousand five hundred members nationwide. It operates on a number of different levels: Life Governors, Examiners, Trainee Examiners, Tutors, Instructors, Trainee Instructors and Non-Technical Volunteer Organisers. Each Local Authority has a Water Safety Development Officer who is a member of Irish Water Safety.

Thanks to all their efforts to promote water safety we have seen a significant increase in the development of water safety awareness in local communities.

Staff

- Lt. Cdr. John F.M. Leech, CEO
- Roger Sweeney, Marketing Manager & Deputy CEO
- Joan Harte, Office Manager
- Jocelyn Cunningham, Clerical Administrator
- Alison Elstone, Clerical Administrator
- Anne Daly, Education Development Officer

Auditors

Comptroller & Auditor General
4-5 Harcourt Road
Dublin 2

Bankers

Bank of Ireland
Mainguard St
Galway

Solicitors

Lewis C Doyle & Co.
Augustine Court
Augustine Street
Galway

National Office

Irish Water Safety
The Long Walk
Galway

Accountants

Robert J Kidney & Co
11 Adelaide Road
Dublin 2

Websites:

www.iws.ie

www.ringbuoys.ie

www.aquaattack.ie

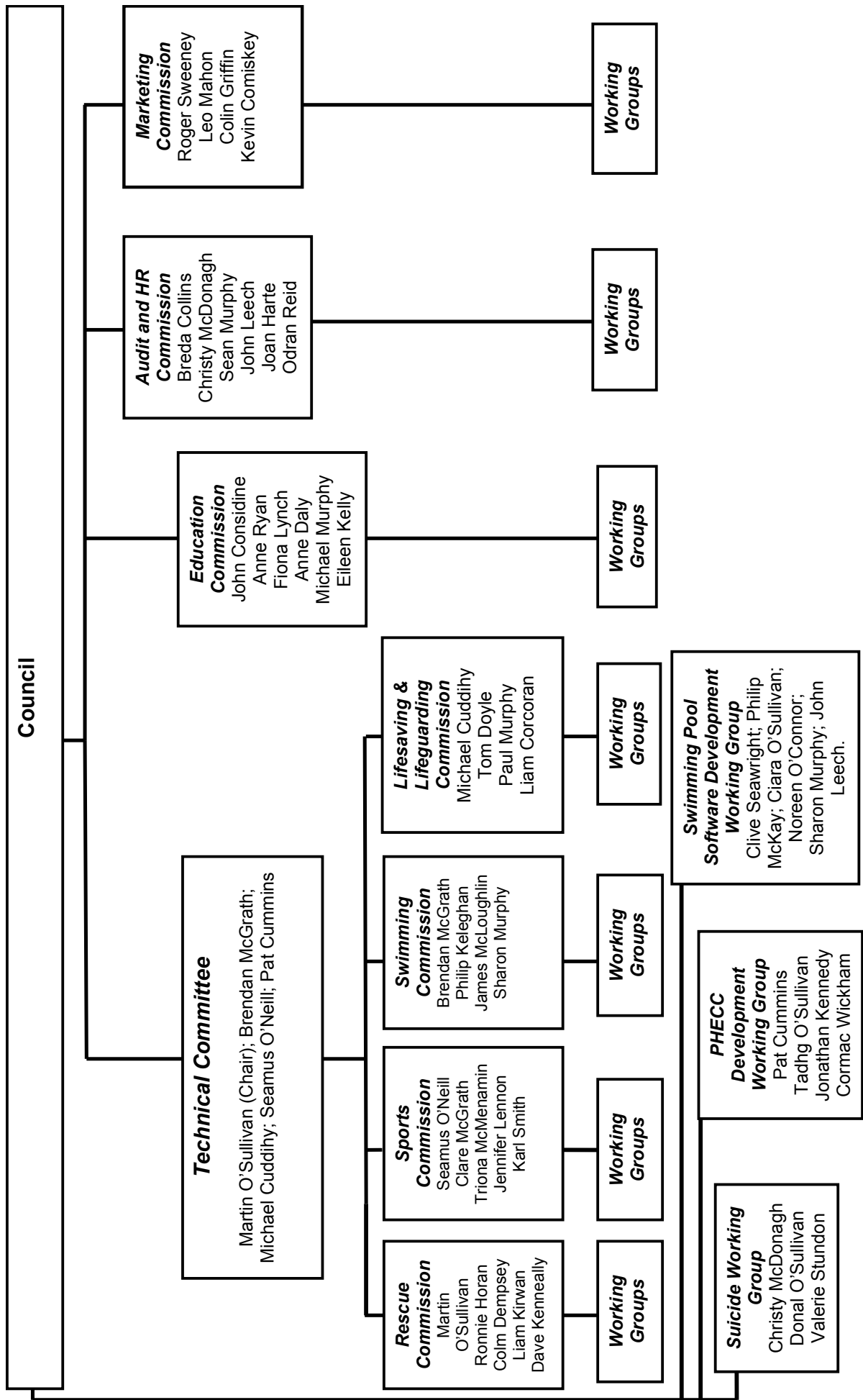
www.iwsmembership.ie

www.iwsmemberinsurance.com



*The Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr John Buttimer hosts a tribute to the work of Irish Water Safety's volunteers in Cork.
L-R: Stephen Scully, Cork City Water Safety Development Officer; Martin O'Sullivan and Hilary Lynch, Cork Water Safety Area Committee (WSAC); Cllr Buttimer; Enda O'Leary and Richard McLoughlin, Cork WSAC.*

Organisation Structure of Irish Water Safety



The Technical Committee

Martin O'Sullivan - Chairman
Michael Cuddihy - Vice Chairman
Member – Seamus O'Neill
Member - Brendan McGrath
Member – Pat Cummins

Duties:

1. Co-ordinate and monitor the work of all Technical Commissions
2. Review all Technical Commission recommendations and forward as appropriate all suitable recommendations to Council for approval
3. Review all Lifesaving syllabi & publications
4. Manage the Annual IWS Examiners Conference
5. Identify and Prioritise new projects with Technical Committee

Audit Commission:

Breda Collins - Chairman
Sean Murphy – Secretary
Odran Reid - Member
Christy McDonagh – Member
Office Manager – Member
Chief Executive Officer - Member

Duties:

1. Monitoring Expenditure and Income
2. Internal Financial Controls & Risk Management
3. Internal Audits
4. HR Matters
5. Define an approach for the continuation of management development for both existing and new staff
6. Health & Safety
7. National & International Travel
8. Develop strategies to increase membership
9. Recommend National & International Appointments
10. Improve links with Local Authorities, meet more County Managers and County Councillors

Antonia Darbey from Dublin received a 10-year Service Award from Fergus O'Dowd TD Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources and Environment, Community & Local Government and Breda Collins, IWS Chairman at Irish Water Safety's Annual Awards Ceremony in Dublin Castle.



Marketing Commission:

Roger Sweeney- Chairman & Secretary
Leo Mahon – Vice-Chairman
Colin Griffin – Member
Kevin Comiskey - Member

Duties:

1. Produce marketing and promotional material as outlined within the S.I. and Strategic Development Plan
2. Standardisation of merchandise – certificates, etc.
3. Standardisation and publication of Books, Manuals, Leaflets, Posters
4. Manage the strategy for Press releases
5. Ensure that IWS is well represented at exhibitions countrywide
6. Liaise with RoSPA & the Marine Safety Working Group
7. Promotion of public awareness of Water Safety
8. Assist in organising National Ceremonies, Conferences & Events
9. Represent IWS at LAMA
10. Market the IWS Brand
11. Monitor Press Cuttings
12. Source sponsorship
13. Promote the wearing of Lifejackets, particularly in the fishing industry
14. Develop the commercial strand to our organisation; improve branding and public relations.
15. Liaise with Charles Thompson Award
16. Analyse drowning statistics



Star of popular Australian TV series, Home and Away, actor Dan Ewing takes a break during his Irish tour to join IWS Kilkenny Lifeguard Derbhilia Coogan to encourage people to swim at Lifeguarded waterways.

Rescue Commission:

Martin O'Sullivan – Chairman.
Ronnie Horan – Vice-Chairman
Valerie Stundon - Secretary
Colm Dempsey – Member

Duties:

1. Promote Blue Flag safety standards and other aquatic environmental issues
2. Manage Risk Assessments at local, national & international level
3. Manage the VAT Inspections and run the training courses for Community Rescue Boats Ireland (CRBI)
4. Manage the SEIKO JIT Rescue Award
5. Assist in Rescue on Inland and maritime Waters
6. Liaise with Community Rescue Boats Ireland

7. Test rescue equipment
8. Liaison with Irish Marine Search & Rescue Committee
9. Develop and rollout a Safety Awareness Programme for those employed near aquatic environments.

Sports Commission:

Seamus O'Neill – Chairman
 Clare McGrath – Vice-Chairman
 Triona McMenemy – Secretary
 Jennifer Lennon – Member
 Karl Smith – Member

Duties:

1. Liaison to Swim Ireland, Federation of Irish Sport and Coaching Ireland
2. Manage National and International Competitions
3. Develop Life Saving Clubs nationwide
4. Train & appoint Coaches, Referees and Officials
5. Ensure all WADA regulations are enforced for our athletes
6. Recommend Sports Equipment
7. Manage International Life Saving Sport & Competitions
8. Promote and develop lifesaving sport in Ireland
9. Liaison with the Olympic Council of Ireland
10. Draw up procedures for all sports activities and competitions



IWS Chairman Breda Collins on the occasion of IWS Dublin's Daniel Wrafter being appointed Chief Referee for the European Senior Open Water Championships and Assistant Referee at the Pool event in the Netherlands, a first for Ireland.

Lifesaving & Lifeguarding Commission:

Michael Cuddihy – Chairman
 Paul Murphy – Secretary
 Tom Doyle – Member
 Liam Corcoran – Member

Duties:

1. The promotion of efficiency and standardisation of the Lifeguard Service
2. The improvement of national standards for Lifeguards
3. All matters dealing with Lifeguards (Pool, Beach, River)
4. Recommend national standard for all lifesaving equipment
5. Train Lifeguards in rescue crafts
6. Water Safety Development Officers Conference
7. The provision of instruction in water safety, rescue, resuscitation and recovery skills
8. European Qualification Framework in Lifeguarding

Education Commission:

John Considine – Chairman
Anne Ryan – Vice-Chairman
Fiona Lynch – Secretary
Anne Daly (EDO) – Member
Michael Murphy – Member
Eileen Kelly - Member

Duties:

1. Promotion of measures, including the advancement of education, related to the prevention of accidents in the aquatic environment
2. Maintain and develop training and water safety awareness programmes within the Irish Educational System.
3. Develop a Transition Year water safety programme
4. Manage the Teachers Training Courses
5. Development of further FETAC awards
6. Manage all Children's interests
7. Review and update all Children's and educational documents
8. Arrange seminars for Designated Persons
9. Liaise with the Dept of Education to maximise water safety awareness training and public awareness programmes.
10. Manage, monitor and enforce best practices in accordance with Children First and our own Code of Ethics for children.



IWS Clare and IWS European Junior Lifesaving Champions Lily Barrett and Roisin Cahill took two Gold medals home for Ireland from Italy.

Swimming Commission:

Brendan McGrath – Chairman
Philip Keleghan – Vice-Chairman
Tom Mackey – Member
Sharon Murphy – Member

Duties:

1. The provision of instruction in swimming in order to teach lifesaving
2. Liaise with Swim Ireland in relation to swimming standards
3. Train & examine Swimming Instructors and Tutors
4. Manage the Annual Water Safety Area Committee Officers Conference
5. Improve membership and communication with WSAC's
6. Monitor standards of Governance of WSAC's
7. Represent IWS at IFSTA
8. Ensure IWS is represented on the White Flag Jury
9. Monitor Swimming Pool Standards
10. Develop a document and template for Risk Assessment in swimming pools

11. Evaluate the number of Swim Certificates in IWS
12. Develop better communications with ILAM

Media Partnerships 2013

We are very grateful to the provincial and national media in helping us to target at-risk groups. Irish Water Safety press releases resulted in 747 articles appearing in the national and local press and specialist periodicals, 257 broadcast mentions and 73 media interviews conducted on television and radio.

PRESS RELEASES

- National Stillwater Lifesaving Championships
- St Patrick's Day Festival safety appeal
- International Recognition for Irish Referee, Daniel Wrafter
- May Bank Holiday
- National Water Safety Awareness Week
- June warm weather warning
- Accidental drownings double in two years
- IWS and Driwnk Aware highlight dangers of alcohol
- July warm weather warning
- VAT exemption order for lifeboats
- July heat wave warning
- August Bank Holiday
- Lifeguard Rescue Statistics
- Summer drowning prevention tips
- European Lifesaving Championships, Holland
- European Junior Lifesaving Championships, Italy
- National Surf Lifesaving Championships, Wexford
- October Bank Holiday weekend warning
- National Awards Ceremony, Dublin Castle
- Christmas and New Year water safety advice

Group hug at the Kiliney Open Surf Day organised by Irish Water Safety's Dublin Water Safety Area Committee.



PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGNS

Exhibitions

- Holiday World, Jan 25-27
- Ireland Angling Expo, Feb 16-17
- Hooked Live Show, Feb 2-3
- Irish Skipper Show, March 1-2
- National Ploughing Championships, Sept 24-26
- Fish Ireland Expo, June 28-29
- IWS Annual Awards Ceremony, Nov 19
- Children's Learning Festival, Navan, May 18
- Irish Fly Fair and International Angling Show, Nov 9-10
- HSA "Keep Safe" partnership events: Kilkenny (Jan), Castlebar (April).
- National Maritime College Open Day, Oct 22



IWS Monaghan's Niall Neeson received a 15-year Service Award from Minister of State Fergus O'Dowd TD and Breda Collins, IWS Chairman at Irish Water Safety's Annual Awards Ceremony in Dublin Castle.

National Water Safety Awareness Week (May 27th –June 3rd)

- Two national and provincial media campaigns:
 - "Lifejackets Float, You Dont"
 - "40 children aged 14 and under drowned in ten years"
- Drink Aware partnership campaign

The SEIKO Just In Time Award

Thirty-six rescuers received recognition at Irish Water Safety's National Awards Ceremony at George's Hall, Dublin Castle on Tuesday 19th November 2013. Thirty-six lives were saved from drowning through the brave actions of these rescuers. IWS is grateful to Timemark for sponsoring the Seiko watches. Details of each rescue are listed in this report.

IWS Water Safety Themed Calendar

- Distributed to members nationwide thanks to financial support from sponsors.

Certification

There are two broad categories of certification – Swimming and Lifesaving. Our Swim certificates are issued directly to and accounted for by Area Committees. The overall number of Swim certificates is significant and continues to grow reflecting the efforts of our voluntary members who instil water confidence and deep-water swimming ability in thousands of people every year. In recent years, these are accounted for at local level.

Water Safety Area Committees processed 26,918 Swimming and Lifesaving certificates in 2013. In addition, a further 38,186 Primary School Aquatics Water Safety (PAWS) certificates were processed and a further 19,642 of the Seal, Marlin and Orca certificates were issued, giving a total certification by Irish Water Safety of 84,746.

Certificate	Qty	Rescue 1	1586
Aquatics organiser	139	Rescue 2	1339
Assistant Swimming Teacher	503	Rescue 3	938
Beach Lifeguard	170	Rescue 4	411
Beach Lifeguard Revalidation	187	Safety 1	1790
BLS 1	2995	Safety 2	2569
BLS 2	1900	Safety 3	2309
BLS 3	1126	Safety 4	2368
BLS 4	22	Splash	137
Challenge 1	222	Surf 1	15
Challenge 2	288	Surf 2	15
Child Protection Seminar	258	Surf Award Instructor	1
Disabilities Aquatics Assistant	41	Surf Instructor Beach Safety	39
Disabilities Aquatics Leader	5	Surf Instructor Beach Safety Rev	35
Endurance 1	461	Surf Lifesaving Introductory Coaching Course	121
Endurance 2	592	Survival 1	82
Instructor	136	Survival 2	271
Inland Open Water (IOW) Lifeguard	3	Swim 1	243
IOW Lifeguard Revalidation	12	Swim 2	263
IWS ILAM PLG Level 1	163	Swim 3	273
IWS ILAM PLG Level 1Revalidation	98	Swim 4	295
IWS ILAM PLG Level 2	936	Swim 5	298
IWS ILAM PLG Level 2Revalidation	751	Swim Teacher Lifesaving	34
Pool Lifeguard	175	Swimming Teacher	278
Pool Lifeguard Course Provider	22	Total	26,918

Primary Aquatics Water Safety (PAWS) is Irish Water Safety's program of certification for primary school children. Now a component of the physical education strand of the primary school curriculum, PAWS is being implemented by teachers nationwide. A total of 38,186 PAWS Certificates were issued in 2013.

Land PAWS 1	Land PAWS 2	Land PAWS 3	PAWS 1	PAWS 2	PAWS 3
5582	2021	1119	510	1115	2983
PAWS 4	PAWS 5	PAWS 6	PAWS 7	PAWS 8	PAWS Total
6155	7510	5428	3697	2066	38,186



Action from Irish Water Safety's National Surf Lifesaving Championships, Curraclo, Co Wexford

Summer Water Safety Weeks

The thirty Water Safety Area Committees nationwide run an extensive series of swimming and water safety weeks throughout the summer in pools, rivers, lakes and beachfronts. Many of these classes extend beyond the summer in places that have pools and leisure centres.

Swim weeks consist of instruction in swimming and water safety weeks develop skills in rescue, water survival and basic life support. Details of these programmes are regularly updated on the Association's website, www.iws.ie. Many counties experienced an exceptional interest in classes following a series of successful radio, press and TV campaigns. There were a total of 199 summer weeks run by our volunteers in 2013.

Carlow	1	Bagnelstown	July	Water Safety
Carlow	2	Bagnelstown	August	Water Safety
Cavan	1	Greaghlonge Lake, Shercock	July	Water Safety
Cavan	2	Lough McNear, Blacklion	July	Water Safety
Cavan	3	Annagh Lake, Butlersbridge	July	Water Safety
Cavan	4	Annagh Lake, Miltown	July	Water Safety
Cavan	5	Killykeen, Killeshandra	July	Water Safety
Cavan	6	Crover, Lough Sheelin	July	Water Safety
Cavan	7	Grownys Wood, Lough Ramor	July	Water Safety
Cavan	8	Lavey Lake, Lavey	July	Water Safety
Cavan	9	Haltons River, Cootehill	July	Water Safety
Cavan	10	Fitzpatricks Shore, Lough Gowna	July	Water Safety
Cavan	11	Brackley Lake, Bawnboy	July	Water Safety
Cavan	12	Garty Lough, Arva	July	Water Safety
Cavan	13	Riversdale Pool, Ballinamore	July	Water Safety
Clare	1	Miltown Malbay	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Clare	2	West County Hotel	July	Safety 4
Clare	3	Ennis pool	July	Safety 3 & 4
Clare	4	West County Hotel	August	Safety 3
Clare	5	Ennis pool	July	Endurance 1 & 2
Clare	6	West County Hotel	July	Safety 1 & 2
Clare	7	Ennis pool	August	Rescue 2
Clare	8	Kilrush	July	Swim, Safety & Rescue
Clare	9	Kilrush	August	Swim, Safety & Rescue
Clare	10	Flagmount	August	Swim, Safety & Rescue
Clare	11	Doonbeg	July	Swim & Safety
Clare	12	Ennis pool	July	Safety 1 & 2
Clare	13	West County Hotel	July	Safety 3
Clare	14	Labasheeda	August	Swim, Safety & Rescue
Clare	15	Labasheeda	July	Swim, Safety & Rescue
Clare	16	Kilkee	August	Safety & Rescue
Clare	17	Kilkee	July	Safety & Rescue
Clare	18	Mountshannon	August	water safety
Clare	19	Ennis pool	August	Rescue 3 & 4
Clare	20	Ballyvaughan	August	Swim, Safety, Endurance, Rescue
Clare	21	Ennis pool	July	Rescue 1

Cork	1	Ardgroom	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	2	Sherkin	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	3	Midleton	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	4	Schull	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	5	Ardfield	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	6	Carrignavar Pool	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	7	Cuil Aodha	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	8	Ballibrannigan	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	9	Skibbereen	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	10	Adrigole	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	11	Garrylucas	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	12	Cuil Aodha	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	13	Oysterhaven	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	14	Bere Island	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	15	Ballingeary	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	16	Cape Clear	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	17	Ballymacoda	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	18	Eyeries	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	19	Courtmacsherry	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	20	Youghal	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	21	Union Hall	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	22	Kilcrohane	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	23	Rosscarbery	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	24	Garnish Pier	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	25	Glandore	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	26	Urhan	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	27	Ballycotten	July	Swim & Water Safety
Donegal	1	Malin Head	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	2	Arranmore	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	3	Mountcharles	August	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	4	Moville	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	5	Rathmullen	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	6	Portsalon	August	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	7	Greencastle	August	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	8	Nairn/Portnoo	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	9	Nairn/Portnoo	August	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	10	Kilcar	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	11	Creevy	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	12	Kincasslagh	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	13	Kincasslagh	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	14	Bun An Inver	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	15	Bun An Inver	August	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	16	Port Na Blaith	August	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	17	Killybegs	August	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	18	Downings	August	Swim, Safety, Survival
Dublin	1	Rush	July	Swim & Water Safety

Dublin	2	Skerries	August	Swim & Water Safety
Galway	1	Portumna	July	Water Safety
Galway	2	Salthill	August	Water Safety
Galway	3	Inis Meain	July	Water Safety
Galway	4	Inis Oirr	July	Water Safety
Galway	5	Loughrea	August	Water Safety
Galway	6	Lettermullen	June	Water Safety
Galway	7	Carraroe	July	Water Safety
Galway	8	Salthill	June	Water Safety
Galway	9	Inis Mor	June	Water Safety
Galway	10	Clifden	July	Water Safety
Galway	11	Cor Na Mona	July	Water Safety
Galway	12	Tir An Fhia	August	Water Safety
Kerry	1	Brandon	June	Swim
Kerry	2	Minard	June	Swim
Kerry	3	Brandon	July	Safety
Kerry	4	Caherciveen	July	Swim
Kerry	5	Waterville	July	Swim
Kerry	6	Cromane	July	Swim
Kerry	7	Ceann Tra	July	Swim
Kerry	8	Portmagee	July	Swim
Kerry	9	Caherciveen	July	Safety
Kerry	10	Ballyheigue	July	Swim
Kerry	11	Kells	July	Swim
Kerry	12	Ceann Tra	July	Safety
Kerry	13	Templemore	July	Swim
Kerry	14	Portmagee	July	Safety
Kerry	15	Meenoghane	July	Safety
Kerry	16	An Daingean	July	Swim
Kerry	17	Ballinskelligs	July	Swim
Kerry	18	Ballybunion	July	Swim
Kerry	19	Rossbeigh	July	Swim
Kerry	20	Castlecove	July	Swim
Kerry	21	Kells	July	Swim
Kerry	22	Kells	July	Safety
Kerry	23	Ballybunion	August	Safety
Kerry	24	Touist	August	Swim
Kerry	25	Fenit	August	Swim
Kerry	26	Valentia	August	Swim
Kerry	27	Fenit	August	Safety
Kerry	28	Valentia	August	Safety
Kerry	29	Derrynane	August	Swim
Kerry	30	Derrynane	August	Safety
Kilkenny	1	Graiguenamanagh	July	Water Safety
Laois	1	Ballinakill	July	Swim & Water Safety
Laois	2	Castletown Bridge	August	Swim & Water Safety

Leitrim	1	Keeldra	July	Swim
Leitrim	2	Gulladoo	July	Swim
Leitrim	3	Drumshambo	June	Swim
Leitrim	4	Fahy	August	Swim
Leitrim	5	Rossinver	August	Swim
Limerick	1	Copsewood	July	Water Safety
Limerick	2	Copsewood	August	Water Safety
Limerick	3	Askeaton	July	Water Safety
Limerick	4	Askeaton	August	Water Safety
Limerick	5	Glin Pier	July	Water Safety
Limerick	6	Glin Pier	August	Water Safety
Limerick	7	Pallaskenry	July	Water Safety
Limerick	8	Pallaskenry	August	Water Safety
Longford	1	Annagh	July	Swim & Water Safety
Longford	2	Annagh	August	Swim & Water Safety
Louth	1	Clogherhead	July	Water Safety
Louth	2	Gyles Quay	July	Water Safety
Mayo	1	Mullaghroe	July	Water Safety
Mayo	2	Mullaghroe	August	Water Safety
Mayo	3	Ballina	July	Safety, Endurance, Rescue
Mayo	4	Ballina	August	Safety, Endurance, Rescue
Mayo	5	Claremorris	July	Water Safety
Mayo	6	Ballyhaunis	July	Water Safety
Mayo	7	Castlebar	July	Water Safety
Mayo	8	Ballycastle	June	Water Safety
Mayo	9	Lacken	July	Water Safety
Mayo	10	Clare Island	July	Water Safety
Mayo	11	Inishturk Island	July	Water Safety
Mayo	12	Inishturk Island	August	Water Safety
Mayo	13	Kilmovee	July	Water Safety
Mayo	14	Belmullet	July	Water Safety
Mayo	15	Belmullet	August	Water Safety
Mayo	16	Castlebar	July	Water Safety
Mayo	17	Charlestown	July	Water Safety
Offaly	1	Birr	July	Swim & Water Safety
Offaly	2	Banagher	July	Swim & Water Safety
Offaly	3	Clara	July	Swim & Water Safety
Offaly	4	Edenderry	July	Swim & Water Safety
Roscommon	1	Castlerea pool	July	Swim
Roscommon	2	Castlerea pool	July	Safety & Rescue
Roscommon	3	Roscommon pool	June	Swim
Roscommon	4	Roscommon pool	July	Swim
Sligo	1	Aughris pier	July	Water Safety
Sligo	2	Enniscrone	August	Water Safety
Tipperary North	1	Ballina	July	Water Safety
Tipperary North	2	Roscrea	July	Water Safety

Tipperary North	3	Nenagh	August	Water Safety
Tipperary South	1	Cahir	July	Water Safety
Tipperary South	2	Clonmel	July	Water Safety
Tipperary South	3	Ardfinnan	July	Water Safety
Waterford	1	Tramore	July	Water Safety
Waterford	2	Boatstrand	July	Water Safety
Waterford	3	Ardmore	July	Water Safety
Waterford	4	Ardmore	August	Water Safety
Westmeath	1	Mullingar	August	Safety, Rescue
Westmeath	2	Athlone	August	Safety, Rescue
Westmeath	3	Athlone	July	Safety, Rescue
Wexford	1	Rosslare	July	Swim
Wexford	2	Bunclody	July	Swim
Wexford	3	Tinabearna	July	Swim
Wexford	4	Courtown	July	Water Safety
Wexford	5	Bunclody	August	Water Safety
Wexford	6	Curraclloe	August	Swim
Wexford	7	Cahore Pier	July	Water Safety
Wexford	8	Kilmore	July	Swim
Wexford	9	Ferrybank	July	Water Safety
Wexford	10	Carne	July	Swim
Wexford	11	New Ross	July	Water Safety
Wexford	12	Cullenstown	July	Swim
Wexford	13	Fethard	August	Water Safety
Wicklow	1	Wicklow Harbour	July	Swim



IWS Dublin's Daniel Wrafter gives words of encouragement to the Dublin Team at the Nipper National Championships

IWS Representation at National Level

John Leech	Irish Marine Search & Rescue Committee
John Leech	(Users Group), Commissioner's Irish Lights
Roger Sweeney	Marine Safety Working Group
Martin O'Sullivan	Community Rescue Boats Ireland
Colm Dempsey	Community Rescue Boats Ireland
Pat Cummins	PHECC - Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council
Breda Collins	Forum of Chairpersons of State Sponsored Bodies
John Leech	ACESA - Assoc Chief Executives of State Agencies
Brendan McGrath	ILAM White Flag Jury
Martin O'Sullivan	An Taisce Blue Flag Jury
John Considine	Green Coast Award
Sports Commission	Federation of Irish Sports & Irish Olympic Committee
Seamus O'Neill	Swim Ireland – NGB for Lifesaving Sport
Anne Ryan	FETAC - Further Education and Training Awards Council
Roger Sweeney	Local Authority Members Association (LAMA) Jury
John Leech & Breda Collins	Charles Thomson Award Jury with the Royal Lifesaving Society (RLSS).
Séan Murphy	Internal Auditor
Michael Murphy	National Designated Liaison Person & Codes of Ethics Inspector

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Phil Hogan joined Fionnuala Sheehan, drinkaware.ie and Irish pro-surfer Richie Fitzgerald to launch a joint campaign to raise awareness ahead of the summer of the dangers of mixing alcohol and water based activities.



IWS Representation at International Level

Breda Collins	ILS European (E) Rescue Commission
John Considine	ILS Education Commission
Martin O'Sullivan	ILS European (E) Board
Martin O'Sullivan	ILS World Rescue Commission
Michael Cuddihy	ILS(E) Sports Commission
John Leech	ILS(E) Management & Administration Commission
Brendan McGrath	International Federation of Swimming Teachers Association
Tom Doyle	Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA)
Michael Cuddihy	College of referees Panel ILS Europe
John Leech	International Maritime Rescue Federation

Conferences

- Water Safety Development Officer's Conference
17th – 19th April, Dublin
- Water Safety Area Committee Officer's Seminar
28th April, Athlone
- Water Safety Development Officer's One-Day Seminar
27th September, Westmeath
- World Conference on Drowning Prevention
19th – 23rd October, Potsdam, Germany
- National Awards Ceremony
19th November, Dublin Castle



Pupils from Gaelscoil an Raithin Dooradoyle, Limerick show their support for Irish Water Safety's Primary School Programme at the Spanish Arch, Galway.



Garda Clare Burke, Community Garda, Galway Community Centre promotes the IWS primary school programme during Garda Community Safety Week.

Risk Assessments

Irish Water Safety volunteers carry out Risk Assessments on bathing areas and waterways nationwide that may pose a particular risk to the public. In order to make these waterways safer, recommendations typically include the erection of public rescue equipment, signage and other necessary facilities. We also complete public rescue equipment usage checks and advise Local Authorities, state agencies and private enterprises on matters relating to water safety.

In 2013, a total of 25 IWS Risk Assessments were carried out:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------|
| 1. Cappagh | Clare |
| 2. Mountshannon | Clare |
| 3. Doonbeg | Clare |
| 4. Garrylucas | Cork |
| 5. Derrynane | Cork |
| 6. Silverstand | Galway |
| 7. Blackrock | Galway |
| 8. Ladies Beach | Galway |
| 9. Palmer's Rock | Galway |
| 10. Grattan Beach | Galway |
| 11. Ballinskelligs | Kerry |
| 12. Rossbeigh | Kerry |
| 13. Inch | Kerry |
| 14. Ventry | Kerry |
| 15. Magherabeg | Kerry |
| 16. Fenit | Kerry |
| 17. Banna | Kerry |
| 18. Ballyheigue | Kerry |
| 19. Ballybunion | Kerry |
| 20. Berta | Mayo |
| 21. Mullaghroe | Mayo |
| 22. Mulranny | Mayo |
| 23. Carramore | Mayo |
| 24. Enniscrone | Sligo |
| 25. Rosses Point | Sligo |



Mr Noel McCarty, IWS Laois volunteers at the National Ploughing Championship where he demonstrated Basic Life Support to the passing public.

Risk Assessor Accreditation Course

23rd/ 24th March, Liscannor Co Clare. International Life Saving Federation of Europe accredited eight new Risk Assessors on this course.

Trainee Examiner's Course

9th / 10th November, Wexford Town, Wexford. Twenty four new IWS Examiners were accredited.



Clodna Mitchell, IWS Wicklow received a 20-year Service Award from Minister Fergus O'Dowd TD and Breda Collins, IWS Chairman at Irish Water Safety's annual awards ceremony in Dublin Castle.

Still Water National Referees Course

15th Feb, Castletroy, Limerick. Eight new Referees were accredited.

Community Rescue Boats Ireland (CRBI) Training Courses

12th/ 13th July; 14th/ 15th June; 24th/ 25th May; 10th/ 11th May; 26th/ 27th April;
Cork Maritime College, Cork

Water Safety Awareness at Work Accreditation Course

17th July, Roscrea, Co Tipperary



Terence Molloy, IWS Wicklow received a 30-year Service Award from Minister Fergus O'Dowd TD and Breda Collins, IWS Chairman at Irish Water Safety's annual awards ceremony in Dublin Castle.

An Taoiseach Enda Kenny, TD joins IWS Chairman Breda Collins, IWS CEO John Leech and members of Corrib & Mask Rescue at the launch of the VALUE-ADDED TAX (REFUND OF TAX) (RESCUE BOATS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT) ORDER 2013 at Lough Lannagh, Castlebar, Co Mayo.



Margaret Talty, IWS Clare received a 40-year Service Award from Minister Fergus O'Dowd and Breda Collins, IWS Chairman at Irish Water Safety's annual awards ceremony in Dublin Castle.

Lifeguard Rescues and Preventive Actions

Our Local Authorities employ Irish Water Safety assessed lifeguards during the bathing season at popular bathing sites nationwide. The table below gives a clear picture of the effectiveness and value they contribute to saving lives each year and we commend them for this work in drowning prevention.

County	Rescue	Rescue Craft	First Aid	Lost Child	Advice Given	Accident prevented	Other
Carlow	4	0	64	0	325	60	0
Clare	94	40	1360	65	14641	5956	319
Cork	9	17	394	52	13315	3121	43
Donegal	14	15	200	39	1727	2354	64
Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown	25	1	137	5	920	460	0
Fingal	19	8	147	33	322	104	8
Galway	26	13	246	27	1383	275	811
Kerry	135	260	1462	280	5473	1717	1091
Kilkenny	8	1	55	0	250	250	0
Limerick Co.	2	38	9	0	165	40	38
Louth	1	5	60	4	644	56	33
Mayo	15	8	184	16	19953	4795	0
Meath	3	0	65	24	36	11	150
Roscommon	1	0	98	0	170	18	0
Sligo	29	36	279	25	2455	526	66
Tipperary North	3	0	34	0	0	0	0
Waterford	26	19	589	295	6733	2469	620
Wexford	2	0	385	46	1361	384	50
Wicklow	14	4	758	68	2060	128	116
Total Lifeguard Actions	430	464	6526	979	71933	22724	3409

Total Lifeguard

Rescues

894



The Sport of Lifesaving

In 1948 it was decided that Ireland would follow a European initiative and create the sport of surf lifesaving based on the skills and equipment used in lifeguarding. Currently 168 countries are affiliated to International Life Saving which controls the sport worldwide.

In 1950 the President of Ireland, Sean T. O'Ceallaig presented a silver trophy to Irish Water Safety for competition between the counties of Ireland. This award is still the premier award associated with our National Lifesaving Championships. The winning County is based on cumulative points from all events in both the National Surf and the National Still Water Lifesaving Championships.

National Championships are divided into pool and surf competitions and include nippers, juniors, seniors and masters competitors. Competitors at the National Championships have their skills tested in events that simulate emergency rescue and swimming scenarios. It is a credit to Irish Water Safety coaches nationwide who spent all year preparing competitors around Ireland's coastline. The Sport of Lifesaving, which meets all Government guidelines towards lifelong involvement in water based lifesaving skills and the development of a healthy lifestyle, has been developed to improve the standard of life guarding in Ireland and assist lifesavers save lives.



Coaching IWS National Squads

Alison Deane and Simon McGarrigle took on with the administration of the National Squad. Brendan McGrath remained as Head Coach to the Squad with Andrew Lally and Daniel Wrafter working alongside him. In order to increased participation and engagement, a log book was designed and distributed to all squad members.

Prior to the first squad camp all the potential members were invited and membership forms sent out to be completed. The first training camp was held in the University of Limerick on the 11th May where 35 - 40 athletes were in attendance. All members in attendance received a long sleeve white t-shirt and a log book that consisted of an an introduction, a section for test sets to be written in and signed off, core exercises and the selection procedure.

The squad also received a talk from Coaching Ireland on nutrition, hydration and were provided with a booklet which can be kept within their logbook. The feedback was very positive from all involved.

Sport online

Jennifer Lennon, Karl Smith and Triona McMenamin worked throughout the year to increase awareness of Lifesaving Sport in Ireland. They began with social media by developing official facebook and twitter accounts. An email address was also created to make the sports commission more accessible to all members of Irish Water Safety and the public.

Coaching Courses

The Sports Commission organised two coaching courses throughout the year prior to the Open Water Season. Triona McMenamin delivered both of these courses, one of which was held in Cork and one in Mayo. There were approximately 50 people in attendance overall.

Development Plan with Swim Ireland

Seamus O'Neill and Clare McGrath worked on the development plan for Swim Ireland which secured €20,000 grant aid from the Irish Sports Council through Swim Ireland.

National Stillwater Championships

The National Stillwater Championships took place in the University of Limerick in February. It was a great day, well organised and efficiently run. Belgian International "A" Referee Frans Kenis added an air of calm and independence to the event. Frans also ran a Stillwater Referee 'C' course prior to the National Stillwater Championships. Norma Cahill set a World Masters Record in the 50m manikin. Fifteen new Irish Records were set and the Junior Teams broke eleven national records.



National Nippers Stillwater Championships

The National Nipper Championships were held in April. Approximately 300 Nippers competed in Kilkenny.

Regional Nipper Championships

Connaught	-	Mayo	Chief Referee: Andrew Lally
Leinster	-	Wicklow	Chief Referee: Daniel Wrafter
Munster	-	Waterford	Chief Referee: Clare McGrath

All the competitions ran seamlessly and were a great success. Presentation of medals throughout the National Nipper Championships worked well, with all winners receiving their medals on the podium for photographs. There were in excess of 500 nippers competing at the regional championships. Regional Nippers events took place on August 10th in Achill Co. Mayo, Curracloe, Co. Wexford and Tramore Co. Waterford

European Senior Championships

16th/17th/18th August:

European Seniors -
Noordwijk/The Hague
(Netherlands)

Daniel Wrafter was the Chief Referee and has been highly commended for his professionalism in this role.

Athletes won bronze in the SERC competition and

Bernard Cahill 2nd and Dylan Barrett 3rd in the Surf Race. Team Ireland members made a total of 16 finals in the beach events coming 7th overall in Europe.



Referees Course

Seamus O'Neill and Charlie Kennedy ran a National Open Water Referee's Course prior to the National Open Water Lifesaving Championships in Co. Wicklow. There were 19 people in attendance.

National Nipper and Junior Championships

24th/25th August - National Nipper and Junior Championships, Wicklow

The National Nipper & Junior Championships provided a very successful and enjoyable day for all involved with very active participation by all competitors.

European Junior Championships

6th/7th/8th September - European Championships for Juniors in Riccione, Italy. Team Ireland were placed 6th overall at the competition with Lily Barrett getting gold in the board race and board rescue with Roisin Cahill. Eoghan O' Grady also got a silver medal in the run swim run event.

National Senior/Masters Championships

14th September - National Senior/Masters Championships, Wexford
Participation was lower at the Senior competitions, prompting the need to develop some support for Senior competitors who are also employed as Beach Lifeguards so that they can attend and compete.

Celtic Cup

21st September, Spanish Point, Co Clare
Participation was lower this year but the Welsh team paid a welcome visit and the competition went well with all competitors making the most of the day. It was also an opportunity for squad members to bond and work as a team with their peers, allowing all participants to feel successful through teamwork.

Irish Surfing Association

IWS inspected 45 Surf Schools with the Irish Surfing Association and also conducted one spot inspection.

Medals

A new sports medal has been especially designed and ordered for the next five years of competitions.



Results:

- National Stillwater:**

	Ladies	Men	Girls	Boys
1	Clare A	Clare A	Clare A	Clare A
2	Kilkenny	Clare B	Clare B	Wexford A
3	Clare B	Waterford A	Donegal	Clare B
- National Nipper Stillwater Championships, Kilkenny, 6th April.**
 - 350 participants
 - 1st: Clare; 2nd: Waterford, 3rd: Donegal.
- National Nipper Openwater Championships, Brittas Bay, Co. Wicklow, 31st August.**
 - 500 Participants
 - 1st: Clare, 2nd: Donegal, 3rd: on equal points Wexford
- National Junior Openwater Championships, Brittas Bay Co. Wicklow 1st September.**

	Girls	Boys
1	Clare	Clare
2	Wicklow	Wexford
3	Wexford	Sligo
- National Senior & Masters, Curracloe, Co. Wexford 14-9-'13.**

	Ladies	Men
1	Donegal A	Clare A
2	Waterford	Clare B
3	Clare A	Waterford A

 - Masters : 1st Clare, 2nd Cork, 3rd Donegal.
 - Best Novice County: Dublin.



Antonia Darbey, IWS Dublin received a 10-year Service Award from Minister Fergus O'Dowd TD and Breda Collins, IWS Chairman at Irish Water Safety's annual awards ceremony in Dublin Castle.



National Awards Ceremony

Tuesday, 19th November 2013, St. George's Hall, Dublin Castle.

Minister Fergus O'Dowd, T.D. Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources presented "SEIKO Just in Time Awards", "Life Governor Certificates and Medals", Long Service Awards, Recognition Awards for Services rendered to Irish Water Safety and also the "Charles Thomson Local Authority Award" and "Volunteer of the Year Award". Among the recipients are members of the public, members of Irish Water Safety and other individuals and organisations who assist in the reduction of drownings by supporting the work of Irish Water Safety throughout the year.

The Service Awards recognised a total of 670 years of personal service of twenty nine Irish Water Safety volunteers for their teaching of swimming, lifesaving, rescue and the promotion of water safety awareness.

- **Community & Social Responsibility Awards:**

In recognition of the support given to Irish Water Safety's community work, charitable activities and commitment to drowning prevention initiatives and the reduction of aquatic related injuries.

BIM (Bord Iascaigh Mhara) (John Connaughton)

Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) partnered with Irish Water Safety to launch a coastal safety awareness campaign in October 2013. The campaign consists of a two-week radio campaign on stations around the coast, highlighting the importance of wearing a lifejacket.

The radio campaign was broadcast to coincide with the installation of signage which BIM and Irish Water Safety have been locating at piers countrywide.

Irish Water Safety is very pleased to have partnered with BIM for this campaign. While our remits are different, we are united in our commitment to ensuring maximum awareness of the importance of wearing the proper safety equipment while engaged in water-based activities. It has been proven time and again that wearing a lifejacket will maximise your chances of surviving an accident in the water. That's the key message in our joint campaign and we are grateful to BIM, to the European Fisheries Fund and to Water Safety Development Officers around the coast for installing the new signage.

Health & Safety Authority (John Kennedy)

The Health & Safety Authority partnered on a campaign to target those at risk of drowning on farms. The HSA sponsored Irish Water Safety's attendance at the National Ploughing Championships 2013 so that the key drowning-prevention messages could be delivered directly to those most at risk. This cooperative venture compliments Irish Water Safety's drive to target vulnerable segments of our communities and the HSA are to be commended for prioritising these efforts.

Timemark (Keith Wall)

Timemark Limited is a distributor of leading Watch and Jewellery Brands. Founded in 1979, and entirely Irish owned and managed, Timemark are sponsors of the SEIKO Just In Time Award which they have supported since its inception in 2001 and for which we are deeply grateful.



John Kennedy of the Health & Safety Authority receives a Community & Social Responsibility Award from Minister Fergus O'Dowd and Breda Collins, IWS Chairman at Irish Water Safety's annual awards ceremony in Dublin Castle.

N.U.I.G Skills for Work Life Community Partner programme at the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics

Students: Allister, Daniel; Diver, Eimear; Lee, Daniel; McGovern, Paul; McManus, Bronagh; Moran, Ciaran Power, Lorna; Tierney, Shane; Walsh, Joseph

Staff: Angela Teahan; Michael Campion

The Skills for Work Life Community Partner programme is a module taken by students of the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics at NUI, Galway. The programme integrates meaningful community engagement with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen community links. Through service-learning, young people use what they learn in the classroom to solve real-life problems. They not only learn the practical applications of their studies, they become active citizens and community members through the service they perform. Students build character as they work with others in their community to create service projects in areas such as education, public safety, and the environment. By taking part in this module, students are provided with a valuable opportunity to develop new skills, which will ultimately make them more employable. Nine students participated in a project to reach and engage with primary schools to expand Irish Water Safety's Aquatics Programme and for this we are very grateful.

An Taisce (Alison Hyland & Michelle O'Sullivan)

The Clean Coasts programme is run by An Taisce, the National Trust for Ireland, and focuses on the protection and enhancement of Ireland's coastline. The Clean Coasts Week in May emphasized the important role that we can all play, and are playing, in conserving our marine environment. A key element of the week's activities was the involvement of Irish Water Safety's Dublin Committee in running an extensive "Surf Open Day" programme of water based lifesaving activities and demonstration rescues on Killiney Beach which gave visiting members of the public a taste of the classes available through Irish Water Safety. It was a partnership that was very worthwhile and which we look forward to continuing.



N.U.I.G.'s Skills for Work Life participants with Minister Fergus O'Dowd and Breda Collins, IWS Chairman at Irish Water Safety's annual awards ceremony in Dublin Castle.

Patrick Keegan

Patrick spent many hours at IWS headquarters on a database management project, which involved the analysis of our records on drowning nationally. Patrick is a Masters level UCD graduate, and his training and expertise in the area of information studies proved critical to this project. Having joined IWS under the Jobbridge initiative, Patrick ultimately produced a report that profiles drowning and its many related factors in Ireland. This data profile will act as a key reference source for the foreseeable future and lends much credence to our organisation's work.

Graphic Workshop (Tom & Sylvia McGuinness)

For sixteen years, Tom & Sylvia, owners of Graphic Workshop, have personally and financially contributed to promoting Kildare Water Safety, a contribution that has brought the message of lifesaving and water safety to a much broader audience through the number of

projects that they have contributed to, including a website www.ringbuoys.ie which enables the public to report missing ringbuoys nationwide.

Ani-Thing Artist (David Butler)

David Butler is a graphic artist known as “Ani-thing Artist” and has designed a number of cartoon images including a new Uisce Bear character that will be used to promote water safety messages to children. We appreciate the time and creativity that David has volunteered through his local Kildare Water Safety Area Committee.

- **Primary Schools Young Educators Award:**

Sundays Well Boys National School

(Principal – Mr. Paddy Lynch; SNA and Swimming Co-Ordinator - Noreen Deasy)

We wish to thank Sunday's Well Boys National School, from Cork city for delivering Irish Water Safety's Primary School Aquatics Programme, a national water safety programme that is now a voluntary component of the primary school curriculum.

The emphasis that the school places on water safety is reflected in the fact that in 2012, all levels of the program's certification was delivered, resulting in a total of 620 Awards being issued within a school of 170 pupils.

For the past 35 years, Sunday's Well school has been organising swimming classes for 1st through to 6th class pupils. The school is now dedicated to complimenting this strong tradition of swimming with Irish Water Safety's structured classroom and pool based programme which gives pupils the skills, attitudes and behaviours necessary to stay safe in the vicinity of aquatic environments. It is a tremendous achievement by all involved and we extend our congratulations to all of those pupils who passed their water safety exams and also extend our grateful appreciation to all teachers involved.



Paddy Lynch and Noreen Deasy of Sundays Well Boys National School with Minister Fergus O'Dowd and Breda Collins, IWS Chairman at Irish Water Safety's annual awards ceremony in Dublin Castle.

- **Young Social Innovators Award:**

Newtown School, Waterford

(Teacher/YSI Guide: Tara Coady)

List of YSI Newtown Students

Jack Staunton, Aaron Vogelaar, Daniel Morris, Jane Walsh, Anna Boyd(absent on day), Hannah Pim, Isabel Llovet, Lianne McKeown, John O'Neill, Richard Jameson, Daryl Hemmingway, Alexandra Gingell, Sholto O'Brien, Cole Johnson, Jonathan Pim, Robert Kent, Sean Phelan, Bill Madigan, Anna Sergina, Cathy Teevan, Michaela Duggan, Sinead Hehir.

Project title: “I Will Survive”

In response to the tragic drownings in Irish waters, notably over the summer months, Newtown School decided to focus their project on raising awareness about water, and associated safety in the hope to prevent any further loss of lives. They decided that if they wanted to raise awareness among others that they would have to educate themselves first. Fortunately their teacher and YSI Guide is an instructor with IWS so she was able to help them. The motto of The Young Social Innovators' is 'Believe in it, Act on it'. All those students involved are learning Basic Life Support, they train in the evenings and they will be examined by an Examiner in the coming weeks. They also have a YSI notice board on which we display posters highlighting safety. They organized an "Emergency Training Day" for all Transition Year students, everyone enjoyed it and staff approached them to express an interest in taking part in a similar event in the future. They are currently organizing an Information Evening that will be open to students, parents, members of the school community and staff. They have written a jingle that they will teach to primary school students to help them to remember the rules. They are putting together information packs suitable for primary school children to learn about water safety. They will visit schools and teach about safe swimming etc in a fun and interactive way. They have created drawing competition, children will create a picture based on a rule/s of 'safe swimming', and they will offer a token for the winning pictures. They are thinking about approaching the government to get an annual day of remembrance for 'lives lost in Irish Waters'.

- **Media Appreciation Award**

In appreciation for covering drowning prevention water safety issues throughout the year.

Provincial Radio Station Award
Community Radio Station Award
Provincial Press Award
National Press Award
National Radio & TV Award
Online Media Award
Community TV Award

LMFM
Connemara Community Radio
Evening Echo
Irish Daily Mail
RTE (Six-One News)
The Journal.ie
Irish TV



Brian Dobson and Dymphna Moroney of RTE's Six One News with Minister Fergus O'Dowd and Breda Collins, IWS Chairman at Irish Water Safety's annual awards ceremony in Dublin Castle.

- **Long Service Awards**

This service represents a voluntary commitment to promoting a public awareness of water safety and rescues based on the humanitarian goal of saving life.

▪ Certificate of Service (10-Year Service)

Mr	Peadar O'Lamhna	Monaghan
Mr	Patrick Kiely	Cork
Ms	Antonia Darbey	Dublin
Mr	Sean Fleming	Dublin
Ms	Kathleen Murphy	Dublin

▪ The Service Medal of Honour (SMH) (15-Year Service)

Ms	Donna Ferguson	Donegal
Ms	Cliona Byrne	Wicklow
Mr	Donal Kelly	Wicklow
Ms	Jackie O'Lohan	Wicklow
Ms	Carmel O'Toole	Wicklow
Mr	Niall Neeson	Monaghan
Mr	John O'Hara	Cork
Mr	Daniel Wrafter	Dublin

▪ Bronze Bar to the SMH (20-Year Service)

Mr	Charles Kennedy	Donegal
Ms	Cliona Mitchell	Wicklow
Ms	Sharon Smith	Wicklow
Mr	Joe Molloy	Wicklow
Ms	Josephine O'Keeffe	Wicklow

▪ Silver Bar to the SMH (30-Year Service)

Ms	Joan Morton	Wicklow
Mr	Colm Demspey	Wicklow
Mr	Terrence Molloy	Wicklow
Mr	Phil O'Rourke	Wicklow

▪ Gold Bar to the SMH (40-Year Service)

Mr	James McLoughlin	Mayo
Mr	Norman Griffin	Monaghan
Mr	Stan MacEoin	Galway
Mr	Thomas Egan	Galway
Mr	Brendan McGrath	Clare
Ms	Monica Doyle	Clare
Ms	Margaret Talty	Clare



Norman Griffin, IWS Monaghan received a 40-year Service Award from Minister Fergus O'Dowd and Breda Collins, IWS Chairman at Irish Water Safety's annual awards ceremony in Dublin Castle.

- **Charles Thomson Award 2012:
Carlow County Council**

This Award is presented by IWS, RLSS Ulster Branch and Republic of Ireland branch in memory of Lt Cdr Chick Thomson who had dedicated his retired life to teaching swimming, lifesaving and generally promoting water safety in the UK and on the island of Ireland. It is presented to the Local Authority that has done most to promote Water Safety on the island of Ireland between 1st January 2012 and 31st December 2012. The winner for this year is Carlow County Council.

- **Volunteer of the Year 2013**

Mary Foster, Carlow

Mary Foster has 35 years of voluntary service with Carlow Water Safety Committee and has held the position of Chairman of this committee since 2008. As Chairman, Mary has participated fully in many Committee led innovations and in the design and delivery of classes which develop the swimming and rescue skills of a wide range of course participants.

Mary is the driving energy behind the organisation and delivery of water safety weeks each year in Bagenalstown Swimming Pool. Prior to the testing of applicants for employment as lifeguards with Carlow County Council, Mary ensures that each applicant has attained the Inland Open Water Lifeguard standard by volunteering her time in delivering a refresher training course prior to assessment by the County Council.

Mary holds the IWS qualifications of Examiner, Instructor and Swimming Teacher and was Secretary prior to becoming Chairman of the Carlow Committee. Mary is the public face and personality for Water Safety issues in County Carlow and works tirelessly to ensure that the business of the Committee is processed through regular Committee meetings.

Mary's role often sees her engaged with local newspapers in developing articles for print and for local radio station KCLR 96FM programmes dealing with the public interest water safety issues.

Mary is a valued member of Irish Water Safety and we are very honoured today to show our appreciation for all of her endeavours.



Mary Foster, IWS Carlow receives the Volunteer of the Year Award from from Minister Fergus O'Dowd and Breda Collins, IWS Chairman at Irish Water Safety's annual awards ceremony in Dublin Castle.

- **Life Governor Awards 2013**

The Award of Life Governor is presented to an individual who has demonstrated a particular dedication towards the humanitarian goal of saving life from drowning.

Michael Cuddihy

Michael Cuddihy hails from Waterford City and is a former Master Craftsman in Waterford Crystal Glass. He has been a member of the board of IWS since 1987. During this time he has served on the Sports Commission of the International Lifesaving Federation, Europe Region and has chaired both the Sports Commission and the Lifeguard Commission of IWS throughout that time. He is also an executive member of the International Lifesaving Europe College of Referees. He has a special interest in promoting sport within international lifesaving and has brought teams to South Africa, Australia, the USA and mainland Europe to successfully compete in international events. He is currently chairing the Lifeguard Commission of IWS, is a member of the IWS Technical Committee at National level and is Treasurer of the Waterford Area Committee of which he is also past Chairman. He is currently a leading figure in the development of a Lifeguard Training Centre in Tramore Beach, Co Waterford which should be completed in time for the bathing season next year. Adding to this list of activities, Michael, or “Buddy” as he is more widely known, prides himself on being a very active Instructor, Examiner, Swimming Teacher, Risk Assessor and Rescue Boat Driver Tutor. We are very pleased to honour him today as a Life Governor of IWS.

Kathleen O’Hanlon

Kathleen O’Hanlon has dedicated her life to water safety from the early nineteen sixties when she started water safety classes at Lambs Lake outside Monaghan Town in the Red Cross Lifesaving classes. Kathleen was instrumental in the formation of a strong Water Safety Area Committee in Monaghan and assisted in teaching classes in St Davnet’s Hospital pool. Kathleen progressed from instructor to examiner and for many years was the only examiner in Co Monaghan. In addition to teaching classes and examining in Monaghan she also examined classes in counties Cavan and Louth. She teaches water safety classes and organises and teaches Swim Teacher courses, Pool Lifeguard courses and Primary School Teachers in-service courses. She was secretary of Monaghan Water Safety Area committee for more than twenty five years and has been the only certificate secretary in Monaghan since 2000. At present she is treasurer and has been a fund raiser since Monaghan WSAC was established. When Monaghan pool closed in early 2001 she immediately got classes up and running in The Four Seasons Hotel Leisure Centre. She was to the forefront in getting a new pool built on the old pool site and this opened in 2006. Her dedication to Water Safety was acknowledged in 2011 when she received a County Monaghan Rehab person of the year award. As the Master of Ceremonies said on the night “There are very few in Co Monaghan that have learned to swim that had not been influenced by Kathleen O Hanlon.” We are delighted to honour her today as a Life Governor of IWS.



Kathleen O’Hanlon is awarded Life Governorship of IWS and her granddaughter Lillie Mae Beeton receives her Seal Level 2 from Minister Fergus O’Dowd and Breda Collins, IWS Chairman at Irish Water Safety’s annual awards ceremony in Dublin Castle.

Martin O’Sullivan

Martin O’Sullivan hails from Glengarriff, Co. Cork and is now living in Douglas. He is the Vice-Chairman of the Council of Irish Water Safety, where he has been a member for over thirty years. He is the former Deputy Principal of St Peter’s Community School, Passage West, Cork and is a former Chairman of Cork Water Safety Area Committee and Chairman of the IWS Rescue Commission and

Technical Committee. He is also the former Chairman of the Rescue Commission in the International Lifesaving Federation, Europe Region and he is currently the Chairman of International Lifesaving (ILS) Federation Rescue Commission – World Body. He was awarded a Knight of ILS in 2001 and was awarded a Grand Knight of the International Lifesaving Federation in 2009. He has given his life to lifesaving and rescue both at home and abroad and has travelled the world teaching Risk Assessment and rescue skills to people in many countries where there has been a significant improvement in water safety and drowning prevention as a result of his work. As active as ever in his community and indeed nationwide Martin continues to be involved in instructing, examining, swim teacher tutoring and the tutoring of Risk Assessors across Europe. We are very pleased to honour him today as a Life Governor of IWS.

• SEIKO Just In Time Awards

Sponsored by Timemark Ltd, the SIKO Just In Time Award is presented to those coming to the assistance of a person or persons in distress in water.

1. On the 10th of September 2011, at Lough Derg, the Usher family were taking part in the Gortmore Bell Race when they came upon three people in difficulty in the water. They managed to bring two of them to safety by pulling them onto their yacht. The third person was rescued by the RNLI lifeboat. All three men made a full recovery thanks to the bravery and quick response of both the Usher family and RNLI Lifeboat crew.

Ms Anne	Usher Wicklow
Mr Mark	Usher Wicklow
Mr Ryan	Usher Wicklow
Mr Craig	Usher Wicklow

Garda Donal Callaghan from Monaghan receives his Seiko Just In Time award from from Minister Fergus O'Dowd and Breda Collins, IWS Chairman at Irish Water Safety's annual awards ceremony in Dublin Castle.



Kim Cambridge, Cork receives her Seiko Just In Time award from from Minister Fergus O'Dowd and Breda Collins, IWS Chairman at Irish Water Safety's annual awards ceremony in Dublin Castle.

2. On Saturday 25th May 2013 at Courtown Harbour, Colm had just finished a training session with Courtown Sailing Club when he noticed a lady calling for help, as someone was drowning close by. Colm radioed the rescue boats for help and ran towards the casualties; he noticed that there were three people in the water. Without hesitation, Colm entered the water and instructed one of the victims to swim towards the shore. With the aid of another instructor Darren Mullins, all three boys were taken to safety. Colm continued on to one of the boy's fathers and upon reaching him, realised he was unconscious. Colm was wearing sailing gloves, a lifejacket, two pairs of shorts, several rash vests and found the swim tough. However, he managed to grab the man and support him while calling for help; the rescue boat came to them and pulled the casualty onto the boat to complete a successful rescue.

Mr Colm	Moloney	Dublin
Mr Darren	Mullins	Dublin

3. On 25th March 2012, at Lough MacNea Lake, Hannah Gillespie and Delphine Leonard came upon a man and woman in difficulty in the water as their canoe had capsized. Hannah, who initially became aware of their calls for help, swam a quarter of a mile out to them while Delphine paddled out in her own canoe to help. Both girls tied the boats together before paddling both victims to safety.

Ms Hannah Gillespie	Fermanagh
Ms Delphine Leonard	Fermanagh

4. On Saturday 13th October 2012, James, Alan, Colin and Joe were driving along by the canal in Dublin City when they noticed something in the water. When they went to investigate, they noticed it was a person floating. James phoned emergency services. The other three men ran to the canal bank where they were able to reach out to the woman and bring her to safety. They placed her in the recovery position and waited with her until emergency services arrived.

Mr James	Ryan	Dublin
Mr Alan	Byrne	Dublin
Mr Colin	Reade	Kildare
Mr Joe	Eustace	Wexford

5. On the 6th June 2012, Garda Joe Hayes, a well known footballer, was on this way to work when he spotted a young woman in distress standing by the edge of the water. The woman entered the water and without hesitation Joe jumped in after her and brought the woman to safety. The woman made a full recovery

Garda Joe Hayes

6. On the 8th of July 2013, at Ballyadams, Co. Laois, Brian Supple came upon a situation where two men were in difficulty in a quarry. Without delay, Brian entered the water where he found the first man unconscious. He dived underwater and carried the man to land where he regained consciousness. Brian dived in for the second man, keeping him alert by talking to him. The two men made a full recovery.

Mr Brian	Supple	Kildare
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7. On the 2nd March 2013, Craig was walking along Wellington Quay when he heard splashing in the water under the bridge. He noticed a man in difficulty in the water, and immediately ran to get a life buoy. He threw it and managed to reach the man, however when Craig was pulling him to safety, the rope snapped. He ran to fetch a second lifebuoy and threw it and secured the man and called emergency services. The man was pulled to safety by both Craig and two Gardai. He made a full recovery.

Mr Craig Reay Louth

8. On the 19th July 2013, Sarah Hill and four friends, Patrick, Sean, Michael and Oisin decided to climb the cliffs close to Creevy Pier, known as "The Titanic". Sarah accidentally fell down the 14ft cliff and somersaulted into the water. Her friends, Oisin and Sean, came to her aid and got her safely out of the water while Patrick and Michael ran for help. Sarah had received extensive injuries and the first responder treatment she received from Oisin and Sean was exceptional. She spent some time in hospital and made a full recovery. The heroic efforts of all four boys saved Sarah's life.

Mr Patrick Cassidy Donegal
Mr Oisin Kerr Donegal
Mr Michael Hurst Donegal
Mr Sean Heeney Donegal

9. On the 21st of March 2013, at River Swilly, Letterkenny, Garda Shane McGee was alerted to a report that a man had jumped into the water. Without hesitation Garda McGee went to the river and, observing a person in difficulty, he entered the water and bravely brought the person out of the water to safety. (NOTE: Although the person was saved, he tragically died 3 days later).

Garda Shane McGee

10. On the evening of the 31st of January 2013, at Peters Lake in Monaghan town, Garda Donal Callaghan was on duty when a call came into the Garda Station about a woman in distress in a local waterway. Donal immediately went to the scene, and entered the water and swam to the area where the lady was spotted. He found a female face down and unconscious. He brought the female to safety and, with the help of colleagues, lifted her to shore. He performed CPR on her and successfully resuscitated her. She was taken to hospital and made a full recovery. Due to his quick thinking and selfless course of action the life of this woman was saved.

Garda Donal Callaghan Monaghan

11. On the 3rd of July 2013, Edward A.K.A. Teddy Knight was taking part in a sailing race in Dromineer when he noticed a young man in difficulty in the water. He broke his boat away from the race and went towards the young man. Upon reaching him, he told him to grab onto the boat and he towed the young man safely back to shore.

Mr Edward Knight Tipperary

12. On 8th July 2013, at the Boyle River, Daniel was swimming when he heard shouts for help; he swam down the river and came upon two teenagers in difficulty in the water. He told them to keep calm, grabbed hold of the girl and pushed the boy towards a rock. He then swam to the river bank with the girl and then went back out to the boy and brought him to safety.

Mr Daniel Hughes Roscommon

13. On the 23rd September 2013, a local taxi driver alerted the Gardai to a woman who had entered the water at Oldtown Bridge in Letterkenny. Garda Dodd rushed to the scene and entered the water and upon reaching the woman, brought her to safety. The woman was taken to hospital where she made a full recovery.

Garda Colin Dodd Donegal

14. On the 5th June 2013 at Youghal Harbour, Kim and Patrick noticed a young man in distress in the water. Without hesitation both Patrick a.k.a. Patsy and Kim swam out towards the young man. Upon reaching him, Patsy began to assist the casualty to swim towards the shore while Kim kept talking to the young man to keep him calm. They brought this person to safety and it is, without doubt, only for the quick actions of both Patsy and Kim, a tragedy would have occurred.

Mr Patrick O'Mahony Cork
Mr Kim Cambridge Cork

15. On Friday 24th August, Richard was enjoying an afternoon at Crookhaven beach with his family. Richard noticed a person in distress in the water, and without hesitation, he grabbed a surfboard and entered the water. Upon reaching the person, with much effort, Richard placed him onto the surfboard and took him to safety. The man was taken by emergency services to hospital where he remained for some time until he made a full recovery.

Mr Richard Galvin Cork

16. On the 8th July 2013, at Pollan Beach, Donegal, Local Surf Instructor Dan Gallanagh managed to bring to safety a mother and her two sons as well as a another local woman. The mother and her two sons were swept out into the Bay by a strong current. When a local woman tried to rescue them, she too got into difficulty in the water. Without hesitation Dan entered the water on a surf board and paddled out. Upon reaching the first woman he managed to get her onto the back of the board and paddled further on out to the other three people. Dan instructed the mother to hold onto his leg with one arm and to hold onto her two sons on the board with her other arm. Dan then managed to bring all four people to safety.

Mr Dan Gallanagh Donegal

17. On the 19th of June 2013, Philip was at the wheel of his Luas tram when a passenger notified him that a lady was in distress in the canal. Philip, who is a trained Lifeguard, immediately notified Luas Control Room which then alerted emergency services. Without hesitation Philip grabbed a point's bar from his cab, and encouraged her to grab onto the pole. She did and he brought her to safety. Emergency services arrived at the scene and tended to the lady. She made a full recovery

Mr Philip Redmond Dublin

18. On the 7th July 2013, at Poulgorm, Barrow, Tony noticed four children (siblings) aged between 4 and 14 in difficulty on a sandbank surrounded by a fast incoming tide that had just turned. Without hesitation, he entered the water and brought all four children individually to safety. If it had not been for the fast and selfless actions of Tony, up to four tragedies could have easily and quickly occurred.

Mr Tony Stack Kerry

19. In March of 2010, Mark Egan was alerted about a man who had accidentally fallen into the canal at Ballycommon Bridge. Mark immediately went to the area and entered the water, where he successfully brought the man to shore. He performed CPR with the aid of a defibrillator until the emergency services arrived. The man made a full recovery.

Mr Mark Egan Offaly

20. On the 18th of November 2013, just three weeks after his first water rescue, Garda Mark Irwin was on duty with Garda John Boyle, at the Quays, at an area called 'The Point'. They came upon a car at the edge of the pier. There was a man in a distressed state standing on the pier and another man in the water. The Gardai threw him a lifebuoy but the man wouldn't let go of the ledge. They went down a ladder towards him and reached the man and pulled him up the ladder to safety. The man was taken to hospital where is made a full recovery. Garda Irwin's 2nd rescue took place on the 29th of October 2012 in Westport, Co. Mayo. A car toppled 15 feet into Knappaghbeg Lough and landed upside down in the lake. Both Garda Corrigan and Garda Irwin entered the water but had difficulty opening the car door. Garda Irwin managed to manoeuvre his hand into the car and keep the person's head above water. The fire brigade arrived approximately twenty minutes later and used cutting equipment to free the man. The man was taken to hospital where he made a full recovery.

Garda	Mark	Irwin
Garda	Stephen	Corrigan
Garda	John	Boyle



Kathleen Murphy, IWS Dublin received a 10-year Service Award from Minister Fergus O'Dowd TD and Breda Collins, IWS Chairman at Irish Water Safety's annual awards ceremony in Dublin Castle.

Phil O'Rourke, Wicklow Water Safety Development Officer received a 30-year Service Award from Minister Fergus O'Dowd TD and Breda Collins, IWS Chairman at Irish Water Safety's annual awards ceremony in Dublin Castle.



Analysis of Drownings 2013

The total number of drownings in Ireland in 2013 was 91, the second lowest figure since records began in 1922. The lowest recording of any year was 73 in 1936. The highest figure recorded in any one year is 235 in 1983.

Ireland averaged 135 drownings each year in the decade to 2013, during which time Irish Water Safety developed a range of educational and promotional campaigns to raise awareness about water safety. The work of Irish Water Safety and our partners in the public and private sector is having the desired outcome – an overall decrease in the number of drownings.

Each figure in the following graphical analysis, be it accidental, suicide or of undetermined cause, reflects a preventable tragedy that affects so many lives. Irish Water Safety continues to target at-risk groups with initiatives to highlight best practices so that drowning statistics continue this downward trend.

A synopsis of some general contributory factors over the years:

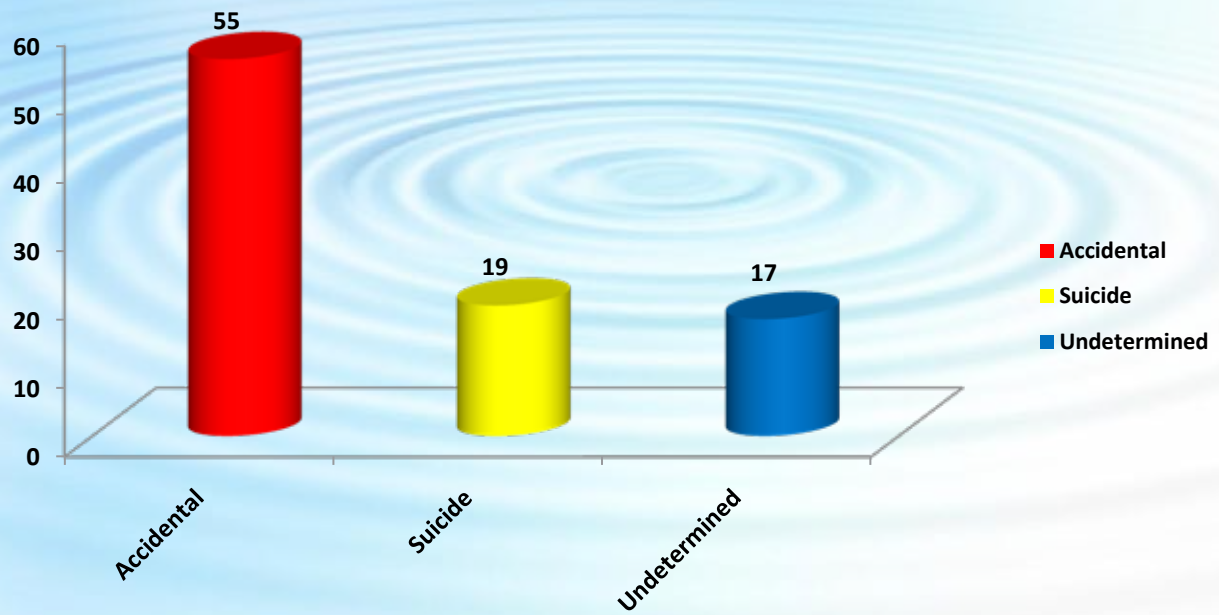
1. Poor or inadequate equipment (e.g. boats or lifejackets);
2. Not wearing a correctly fitting lifejacket;
2. Alcohol consumption;
3. Falling unexpectedly into water;
4. Improper use of boats and equipment;
5. Overestimation of skills;
6. Lack of local knowledge when travelling in Ireland and abroad;
7. Not being able to swim or not having lifesaving and water survival skills;
8. Easy unauthorized access to waterways;
9. Cold water shock and hypothermia;
10. Current (including rip currents, river currents, and tidal currents);
11. Offshore winds (including flotation devices);
12. Pre-existing diseases;
13. Underwater entanglement;
14. Bottom surface gradient and stability;
15. Waves (coastal, boat);
16. Water transparency;
17. Impeded visibility (including coastal configuration, structures and overcrowding);
18. Lack of parental supervision (infants and children);
19. Change in weather conditions;
20. Excessive "horseplay" or over exuberant behavior;
21. Swimming outside the depth of the user.

A synopsis of some general preventive and management actions:

1. Public education by Irish Water Safety regarding hazards and safe behaviours;
2. Teaching children to stay away from water when unsupervised through the IWS PAWS (Primary Aquatics Water Safety) programme;
3. Continual adult supervision of children;
4. IWS media campaigns that drowning can happen quickly and quietly;
5. Promote in IWS press announcements, the restriction of alcohol provision before or during aquatic activities;
6. Provision by Irish Water Safety of properly trained and equipped lifeguards;
7. Provision of rescue services;
8. Irish Water Safety Risk Assessments that include assessments of local hazard warning notices, access to emergency response and availability of resuscitation skills/facilities and other factors;
9. Development by Irish Water Safety of rescue and resuscitation skills among general public and user groups;
10. Coordination by Irish Water Safety with user group associations concerning hazard awareness and safe behaviours;
11. Wearing of adequate lifejackets and Personal Flotation Devices when boating;
12. Fencing and doors to isolate outdoor aquatic environments.

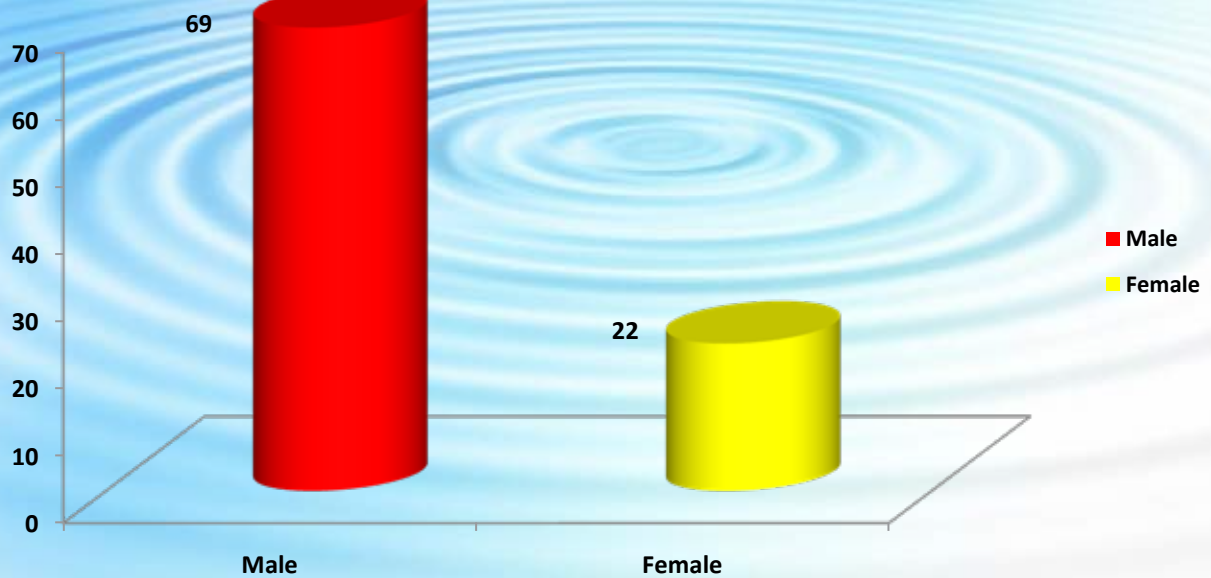
2013 Drownings by Cause

Total: 91



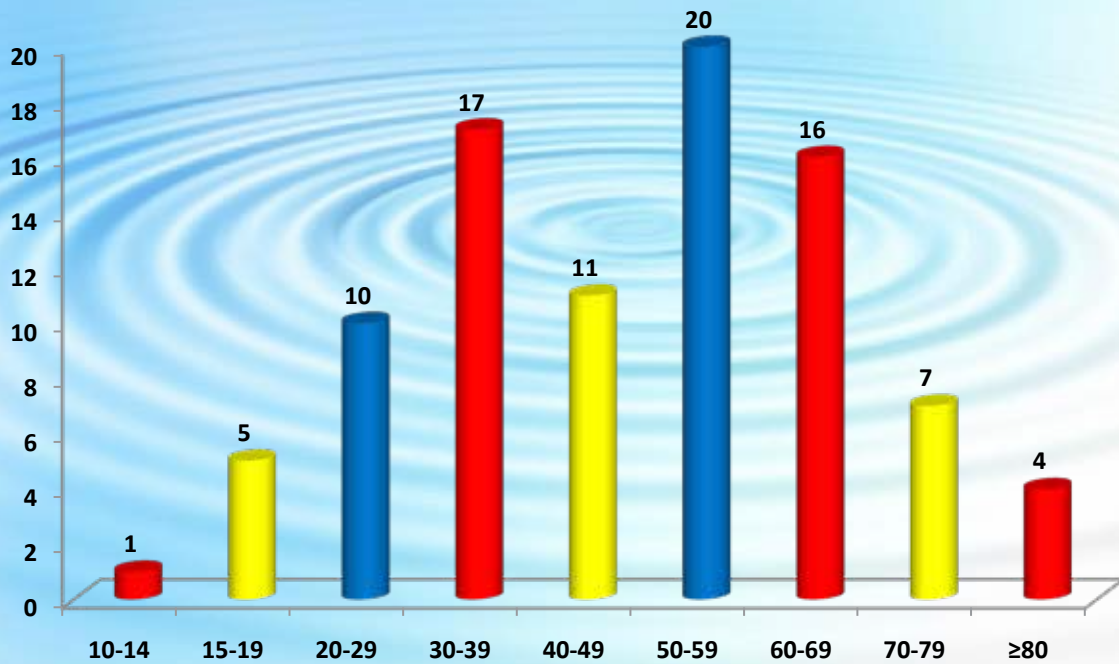
2013 All Drownings by Gender

Total: 91



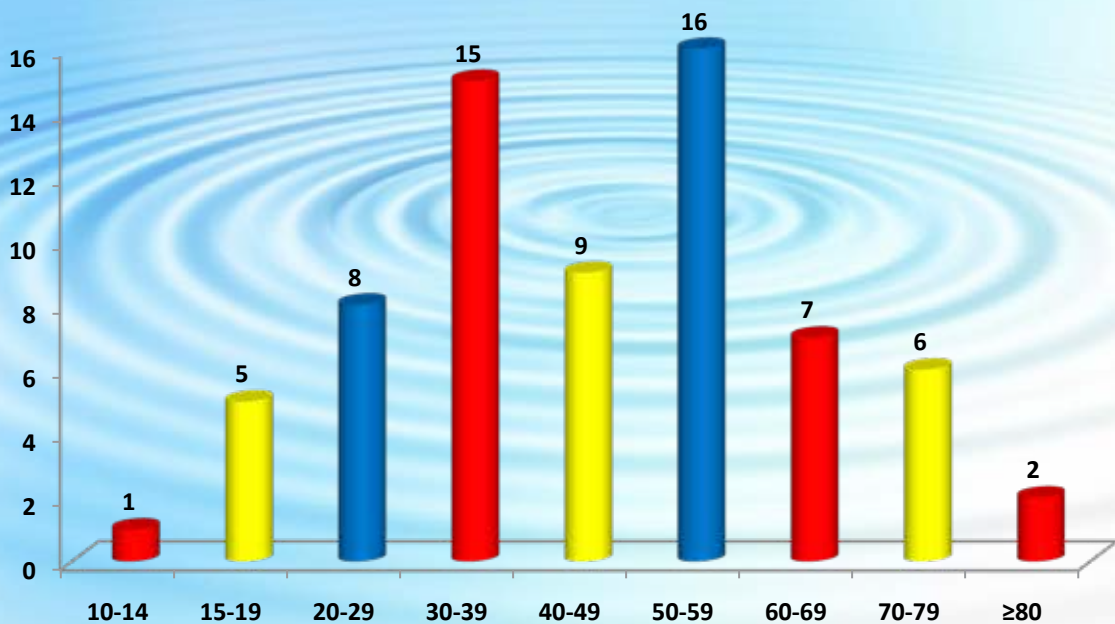
2013 All Drownings by Age

Total: 91



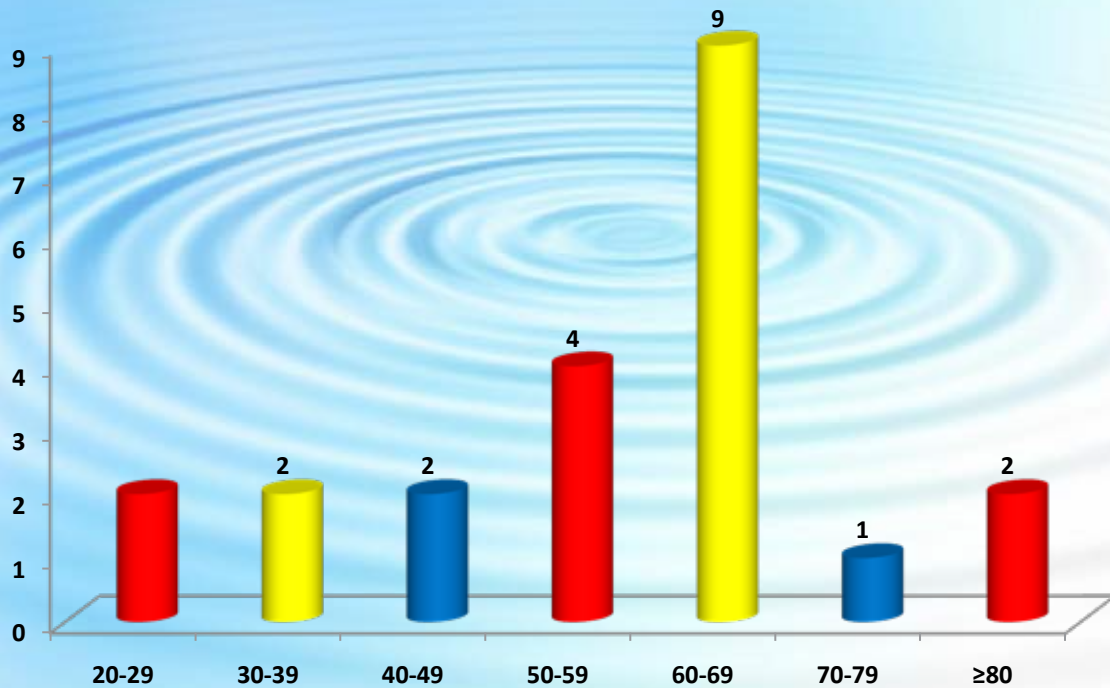
2013 Male Drownings by Age

Total: 69 of 91

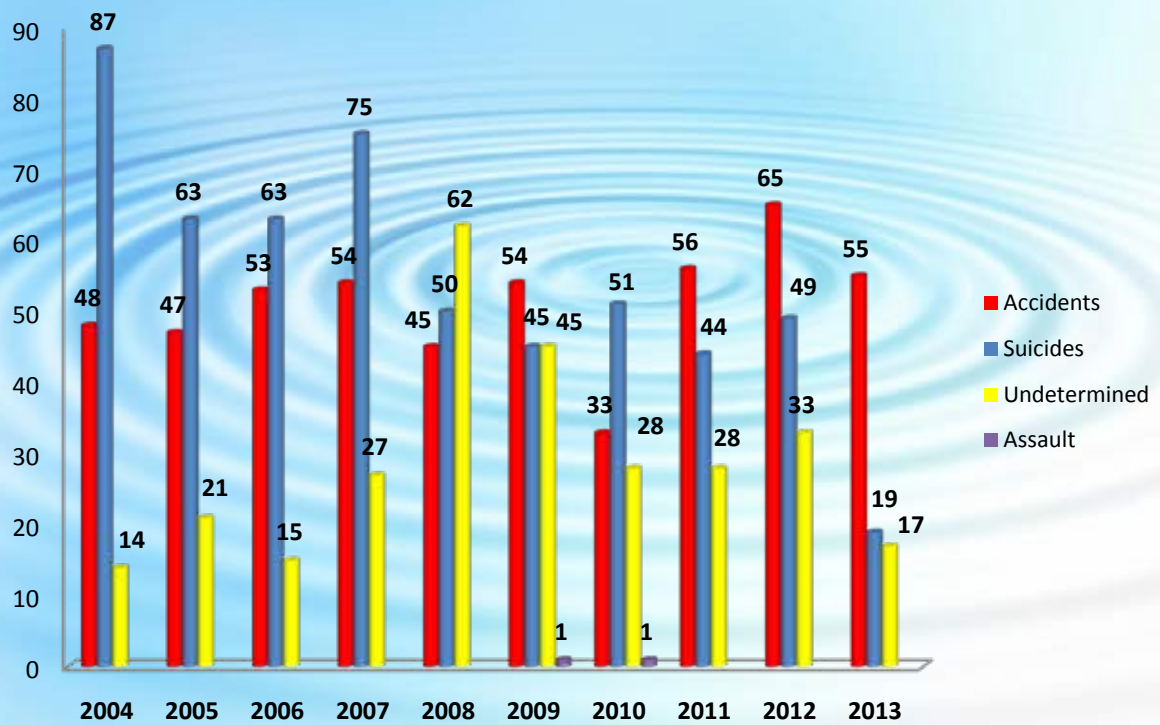


2013 Female Drownings by Age

Total: 22 of 91

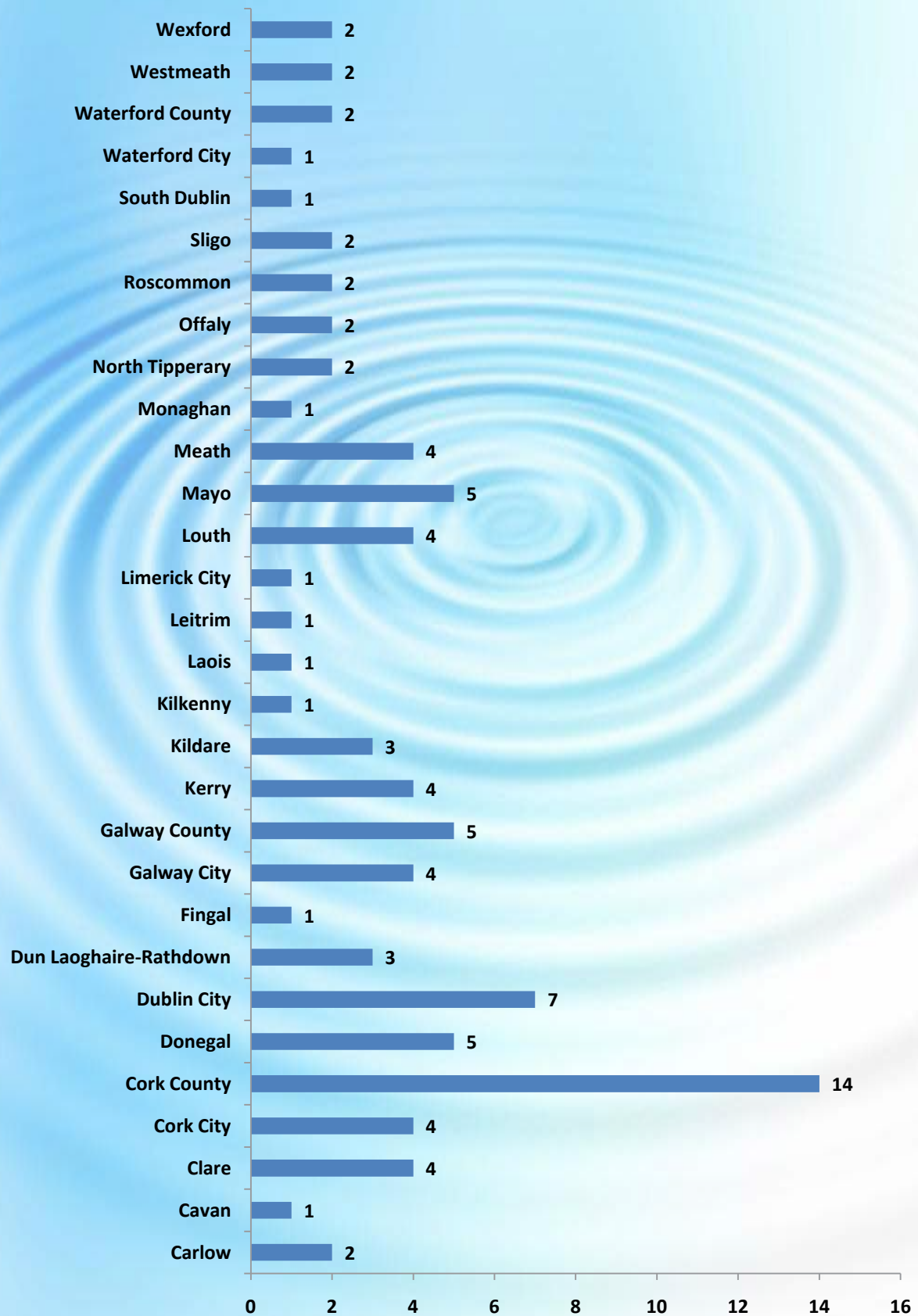


Decade of Drownings to 2013

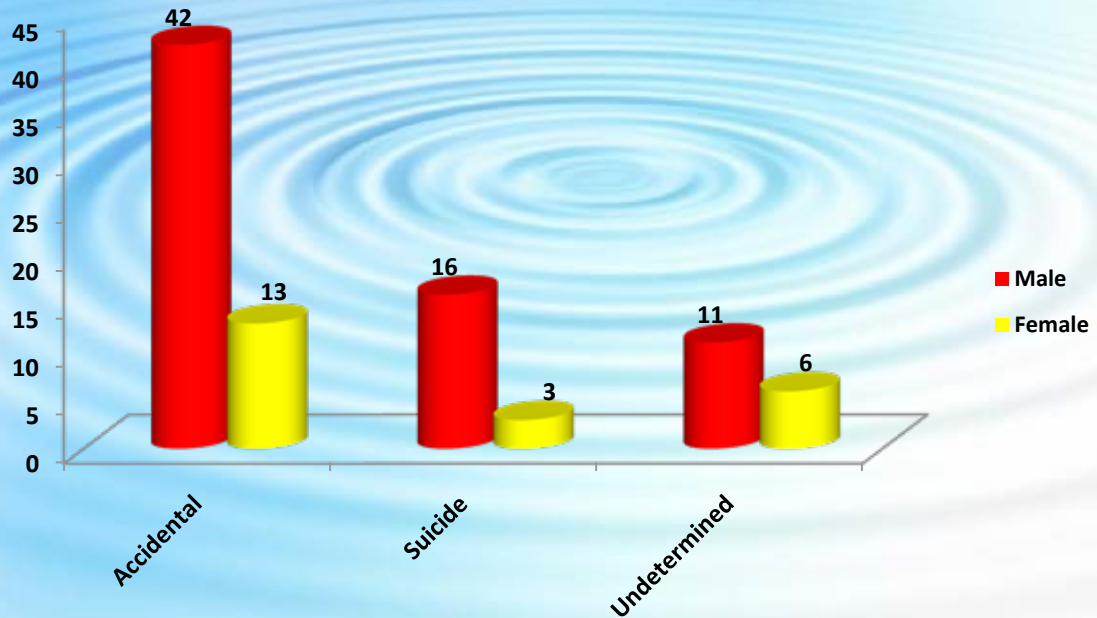


2013 Drownings by Area

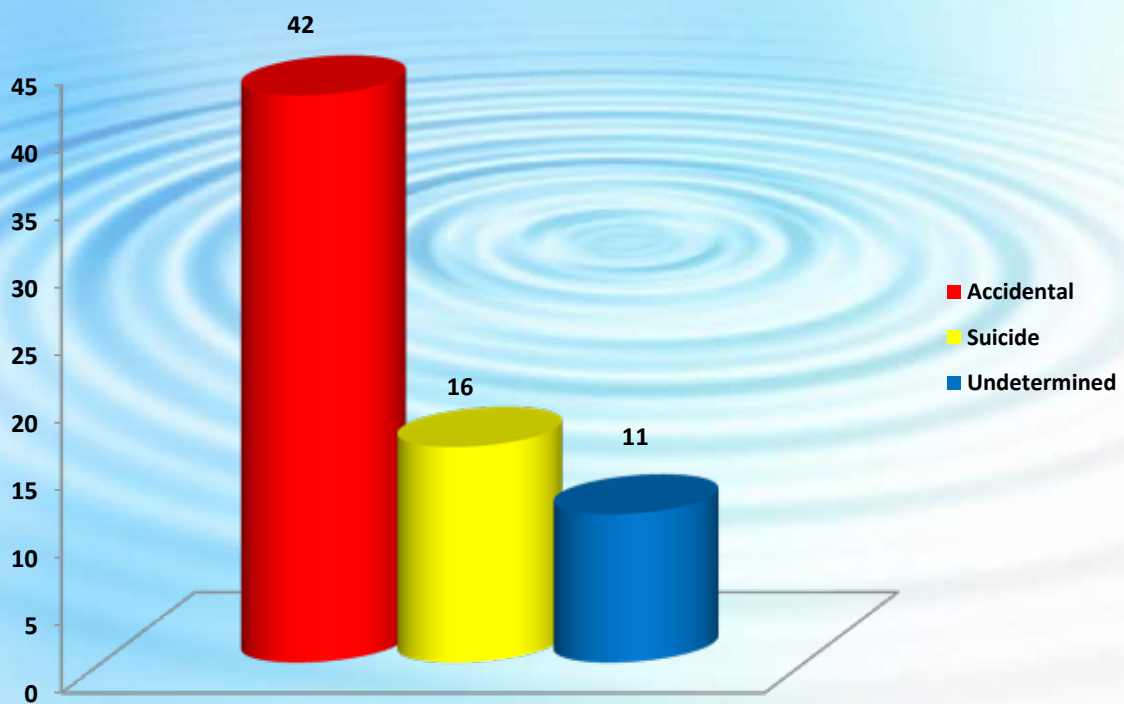
Total: 91



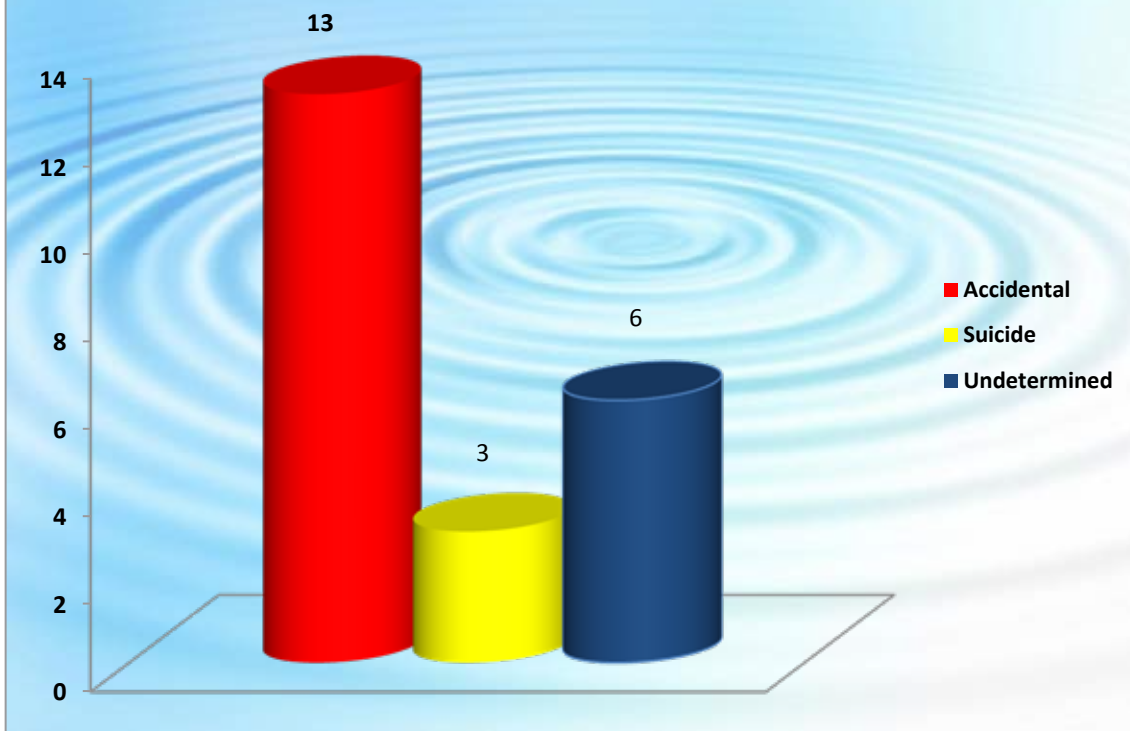
2013 Drownings by Gender and Cause



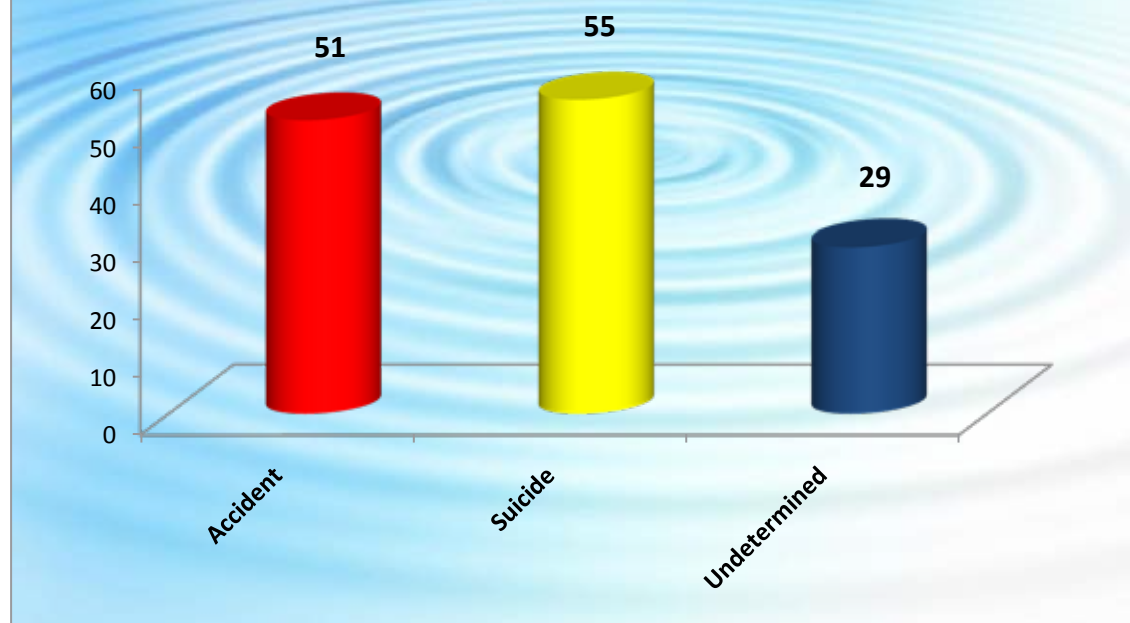
2013 Male Drownings by Cause



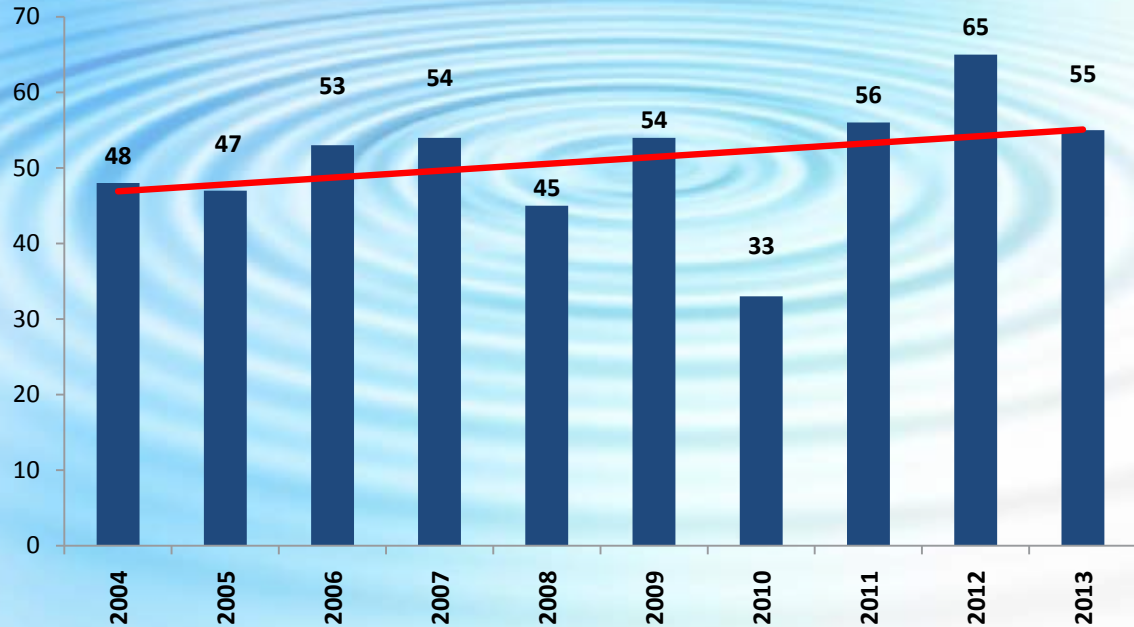
2013 Female Drownings by Cause



Average Drownings per Annum Decade to 2013 Total: 135



Drowning Accidents Trendline: Decade to 2013 Average: 51



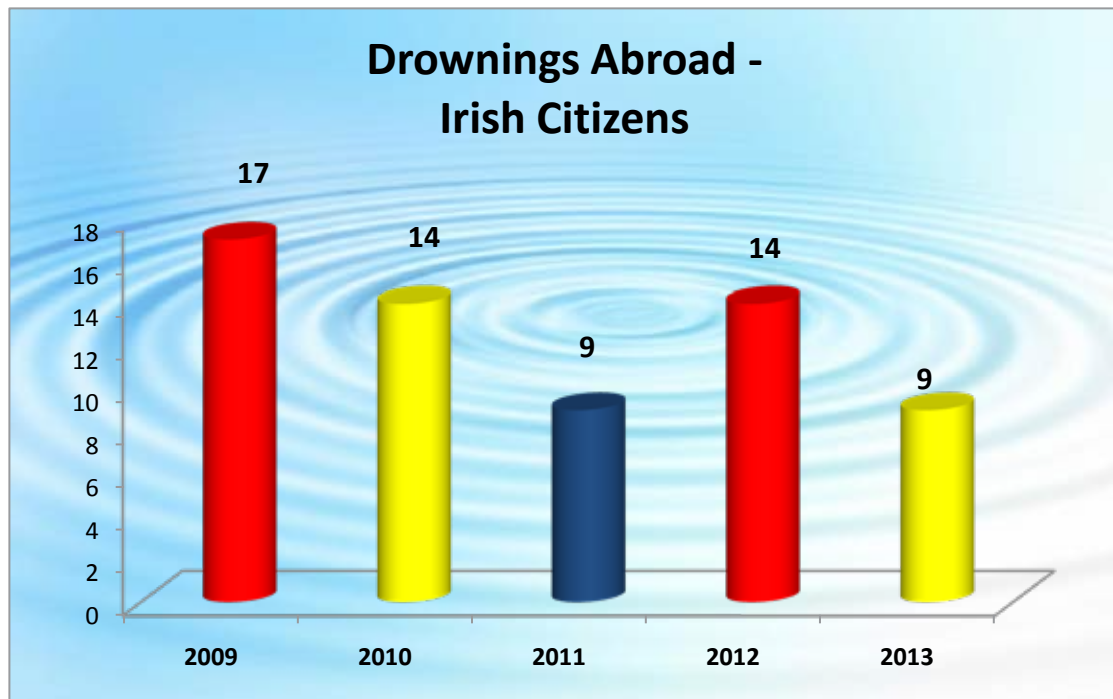
Drownings by Suicide and Undetermined Cause: Decade to 2013 Average: 55 & 29



Drowning Statistics – Irish Citizens abroad in 2013

The Consular Assistance Section was informed of the deaths of 225 Irish citizens in 2013. Of these, nine were by drowning, of which eight were males and one was female. The breakdown by continent is as follows:

Europe: 7; Americas: 1; Asia: 1.



*Any interpretation of the figures must be exercised with caution because they are provisional, pending supplementary documentation and therefore subject to change pending further correspondence.

NOTES:



Irish Water Safety
The Long Walk
Galway

Tel: 091 564400
LoCall: 1890 420 202
Fax: 091 564700

info@iws.ie
www.iws.ie
www.aquaattack.ie
www.ringbuoys.ie
www.iwsmembership.ie
www.iwsmemberinsurance.com



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